

The Parchment

Studies for making fully devoted followers of Christ



For The Sake of the Gospel

June 27, 2021

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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Vol. 11 Num.26

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

-1 Thessalonians 2:8

This week we are looking at the beginning of chapter 2 of 1st Thessalonians. Paul reminds the Thessalonians of how he shared the Gospel with them. He had faced opposition there, and had just come from Philippi where he also had great opposition. Despite this Paul did not waver in sharing the message of Christ even at possible risk to himself. In the midst of this opposition Paul does not give in to the temptation to tell people what they want to hear; he continues to give the message of God. Paul also does not become harsh or demanding, but he is gentle and loving, reflecting Christ. Join us this week as we talk about the importance and the difficulty of sharing the message of Christ with our community.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8 NASB

Paul's Ministry

2 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. ³ For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit; ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. ⁵ For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—⁶ nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. ⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. ⁸ Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unalike such as similes and metaphors?

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why did Paul say his effort with the Thessalonians was not in vain?

9. What happen to Paul in Philippi? (see acts 16:22-24)

10. What evidence does Paul give that he is speaking the word of God not his own words?

11. Was it easy for Paul to share the Gospel in Thessalonica?

12. How did Paul treat the Thessalonians when he shared the Gospel?

13. How do you think it would have gone if Paul asserted his authority instead of being gentle?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. Paul suffered a great deal to share the Gospel including opposition in Thessalonica. What opposition might we see as we share the Gospel today?
 15. Looking at Paul's example what attitude must we maintain when sharing the Gospel?
 16. Considering today's environment what are some characteristics of teaching with the goal of pleasing men versus teaching the Word of God.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes