

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS

*2 - Paul's Example in
Proclaiming the Gospel (2:1-12)*

BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

- Content:
 - Each chapter ends with a mention of the second coming of Christ (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23)
 - *Chapters 1-3: Paul's Dealings with the Thessalonians*
 - 1- Paul's Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians
 - 2 - Paul's Example and Their Conversion
 - 3 - Paul's Concern for Them
 - *Chapters 4-5: Holy Living Until the Return of Christ*
 - 4 - Abound More and More; Comfort in Christ Coming
 - 5 - The Day of the Lord; General Exhortations

CHAPTER 1 – PAUL'S THANKSGIVING

- *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy gave thanks to God continually for these brethren, remembering...*
 - Their Work of **Faith**;
 - Their Labor of **Love**;
 - Their Steadfastness of **Hope**
- Their reception of the gospel with joy amidst persecution, and their faith that was known.
- They were waiting for the return of Christ from heaven

PAUL'S EXAMPLE – IN TEACHING (2:1-6)

- They had come in boldness (2:1-2; Acts 16:17-24; Eph. 6:18-20)
- They spoke with truth and purity (2:3; c.f. 2 Cor. 4:1-6)
- They sought only to please God, not men (2:4; Gal. 1:10)
- They did not use flattery or covetousness (2:5-6; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Pt. 2:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:15-17; 2 Thess. 3:8-9)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE – IN MANNER OF LIFE (2:7-12)

- They were gentle and affectionate (2:7-8)
 - “just as a nursing mother tenderly cares for (cherishes) her own children”
 - Paul loved his brethren deeply (2 Cor. 11:28; Phil 1:3-8)
 - Shared not just the gospel, but *themselves* (Phil. 2:17; 2 Cor. 12:14-15)
 - This is the love we all need for brethren (willing to lay down our life – 1 Jn. 3:16-17)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE – IN MANNER OF LIFE (2:7-12)

- They were gentle and affectionate (2:7-8)
- They labored night and day (2:9)
 - “so as to not be a burden”
 - Like Corinth – not because he didn't have a right of support (c.f. 1 Cor. 9:7-14; 2 Thess. 3:7-9)
 - Paul sometimes worked as a tentmaker while preaching (e.g. Ac. 18:1-4)
 - Paul often chose to preach without charge (1 Cor. 9:15-18; Ac. 20:31-35)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE – IN MANNER OF LIFE (2:7-12)

- They were gentle and affectionate (2:7-8)
- They labored night and day (2:9)
- They were devout, upright, blameless (2:10)
 - Devoutly (holily) – holy living (1 Pt. 1:13-16; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:2)
 - Uprightly (justly) – righteous living
 - Blamelessly – above reproach (Ac. 24:10-16; 2 Cor. 6:1-10)
 - This is how we should all live as Christians, having received God's grace (Titus 2:11-14)

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- They labored night and day (2:9)
- They were devout, just, blameless (2:10)
- They were as a father to them (2:11)
 - Exhorted, Encouraged, and Implored
 - All three are important
 - Their goal in all this – that they might walk worthy of their calling into the kingdom (2:12; Eph. 4:1-6; Col 1:9-14; 2:6-10)

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