

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED



1 Thessalonians

Church As She Should Be

Cherished Memories

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

04/22/2018



**The Last 2 week we looked at Paul's "Praise" of the
Thessalonian Church regarding their**

Work of Faith

Labor of Love

Patience in Hope

→ In Jesus Christ → OUR SANCTIFICATION in Christ

**- Paul Praised them for Receiving God's Word as it is –
God's Holy Word**

**- Paul Praised them for SPREADING the GOSPEL, Boldly and
how they became imitators of Paul and his Team, etc.**

**As we go over this Study – please, you can refer to our
Acts Study → Acts 17:1-10 → <https://wp1.NLFJl.org/315>**

Let's Stand and Read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

1 Thessalonians 2 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

2 For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our visit with you was not without result. ² On the contrary, after we had previously suffered and were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition. ³ For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive. ⁴ Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts. ⁵ For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives—God is our witness— ⁶ and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others. ⁷ Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. ⁸ We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. ⁹ For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers and sisters. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. ¹¹ As you know, like a father with his own children, ¹² we

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1. How did Paul and his Team spread the Gospel in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki) (ref. 1 Thess. 2:1-12)? (what was the “manner” in which they did it?)

After suffering greatly (outrageously) in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40) The Preached the Gospel BOLDLY in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 2:1-2). After Beatings and being Falsely Charged and then imprisoned without due process – instead crawling into a whole or going to deserted island Resort/Hotel (i.e. *Sandals Bahamas*) ... they chose to press on and continue to Spread the Gospel to others ... not knowing if a similar fate awaited them there – Trusting in God – Emboldened by God. That in itself is a MIRACLE. It goes against all human norms and human nature as we know it.

**They were BOLD – Confident – Trusting in God → Spreading the Gospel
Not ARROGANT – PUSHY – Unbecoming – undignified, etc.**

1. How did Paul and his Team spread the Gospel in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki) (ref. 1 Thess. 2:1-12)? (what was the “manner” in which they did it?)

For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive. ⁴ **Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather [to PLEASE] God, who EXAMINES our hearts. (1 Thess. 2:3-4)**

- **Not Spreading Error or False Teachings – not based upon error**
 - **Pure Motives – no ulterior motives – no hidden agendas**
 - **Truthful – Not Deceitful**
 - **Entrusted by God – to Please God - they were accountable to Him**
- They had only one motive – to Live For and to Please God.**
This was the FOUNDATION of the other things he said here.
Is that the Reason you are living? → To Please God

1. How did Paul and his Team spread the Gospel in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki) (ref. 1 Thess. 2:1-12)? (what was the “manner” in which they did it?)

For we never used FLATTERING speech, as you know, or had GREEDY motives—God is our witness—⁶ and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others. (1 Thess. 2:5-6)

- Not as Slick Salesmen – NOT using manipulative techniques
Bait & Switch → Mormons, JWs, cults, Islam, other religions
Not so with Biblical Christianity → The Whole Truth is Declared
- Pure Motives – not GREEDY gain – motivation – to make a Buck
Not a new way to *Extort Money* from “weak” people
as many *religious charlatans* do today on TV, etc.
- Not seeking the Praise of Men – Not seeking Human Glory
Paul and his team were not seeking fame, fortune and notoriety

1. How did Paul and his Team spread the Gospel in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki) (ref. 1 Thess. 2:1-12)? (what was the “manner” in which they did it?)

Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse (or *nursing mother*) nurtures her own children. ⁸ We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. ⁹ For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers and sisters. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. (1 Thess. 2:7-9)

- No Distractions – NOT a Burden financially to them
- Motherly – Nurturing – Gentle & Kind
- Personable – Personal, close, touching lives – not a job, but a labor of love, passionate for real people (lost sinners) [Matt. 9:35-38]

1. How did Paul and his Team spread the Gospel in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki) (ref. 1 Thess. 2:1-12)? (what was the “manner” in which they did it?)

You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you BELIEVERS. ¹¹ As you know, like a father with his own children, ¹² we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to live worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. (1 Thess. 2:10-12)

- Devoted/Devout, Righteous, and Blameless Conduct
Not accused of drunkenness, crimes, sexual sins, etc. (ref. 1 Tim. 3:1-13)
- Fatherly – **Grow UP** → Encouraged, Comforted, Implored
Mother → Birth & nurture ... (1 Thess. 2:7-9) – Born Again
Father's role → to Mature the children to become adults
- Envisioning – **To Encourage Believers to Live Lives Worthy of God**

2. Paul Repeated the two main points of why he was remembering them in Prayer – what were they? (ref. 2:13-16)

This is why we constantly thank God, BECAUSE when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it **NOT** as a human message, but as it truly is, the **WORD OF GOD, which also** works effectively in you **who believe.** ¹⁴ **For you, brothers and sisters, became IMITATORS of God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, since you have also** suffered the same things from people of your own country, just as they did from the Jews ¹⁵ **who killed the LORD Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us. They** displease God **and are hostile to everyone,** ¹⁶ **by keeping us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. As a result, they are constantly filling up their sins to the limit, and wrath has overtaken them at last.** (1 Thess. 2:10-12)

- They Received the **WORD of GOD** – as what it truly is – **the Word of God**
Paul states this in chapter 1 and here again. He's **IMPRESSED** with them
- They became **Imitators** of Paul and his Team and the churches in Judea – they were connected to Paul, his team, and other churches ...
both in **Spreading the Word of God** and **Their Suffering of Persecution**

3. To Paul and his Team – what were the Thessalonian Christians to them (ref. 2:17-20)?

First we need to go back to verses 7-8, and verse 11

Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse (or *nursing mother*) nurtures her own CHILDREN.⁸ We CARED SO MUCH FOR YOU that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become DEAR to us. (1 Thess. 2:7-8)

As you know, like a FATHER with his own CHILDREN... (1 Thess. 2:11)

- They were viewed as their very own **Precious, Dear Children**



3. To Paul and his Team – what were the Thessalonian Christians to them (ref. 2:17-20)?

But as for us, brothers and sisters, after we were forced to leave you for a short time (in person, not in heart), we greatly desired and made every effort to return and see you face to face. ¹⁸ So we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown of boasting in the presence of our LORD Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed you are our GLORY and JOY!

- They were viewed as their own Family – Brothers and Sisters ... Closely Loved Family to Paul and his team.**
- HOPE of Boasting**
- JOY of Boasting**
- CROWN of Boasting**
- GLORY and JOY**

Is this how God views us? (individually and as a local church family)?