Paul: A Model for Ministry
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Introduction

I  The Manner of His Preaching
   A. He was confident in the success of his visit - 2:1, 2, 5, 11
   B. He preached the gospel with boldness: - 1 Cor 2:3; 2 Cor 7:5; Acts 4:29-31; Eph 6:19-20
      1. In spite of suffering and insult in Philippi - Acts 16
      2. In spite of strong opposition - Phil 1:29-30
   C. He appealed to them with truth and integrity
      1. It did not spring from error - 2 Cor 4:1
      2. It did not spring from impure motives - 2 Cor 4:2
      3. It did not spring from trickery - 2 Pet 1:16
   D. He preached with the goal of pleasing God - 2 Cor 5:8-10
      1. He had been approved by God
      2. He had been entrusted with the gospel - Jude 1:3
   E. He rejected ungodly tactics/behavior:
      1. Trying to please men - Gal 1:10
      2. Using flattery - 2 Pet 2:18; Rom 16:18; Job 32:22
      3. Masking inner greed - 2 Peter 2:14; 2 Cor 2:17
      4. Looking for praise from men - Jn 12:43
      5. Being a burden to them - Acts 20:33-35

II  The Manner of His Life
   A. He was gentle, like a nursing mother - Phil 1:8
   B. He loved them so much that he was delighted:
      1. To share the gospel of God - 2 Cor 5:11-21
      2. To share their very lives as well - Jn 15:12-13
   C. He reminded them of their toil and hardship
      1. They worked day and night in order:
         a. To not be a burden to anyone - 2 Thess 3:7-9
         b. To preach the gospel free of charge - 1 Cor 9:7-18
   D. He appealed to their witness of his character:
      1. They were holy - 2 Cor 1:12
      2. They were righteous - 2 Cor 6:3; 2 Cor 7:2
      3. They were blameless - Acts 24:16
      1. He exhorted them - 1 Thess 4:1-2; 2 Tim 4:1-2
      2. He comforted them - Heb 3:13; 10:25
      3. He urged them to live lives worthy of God - Eph 4:1;
       Phil 1:27; Col 1:10

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Who has been a good role model for you in your life/ministry?
2. Why was Paul (despite being beaten, jailed and then run out of town) able to define his visit to Thessalonica as a success? How do you define success in your life?
3. Paul repeatedly mentions the importance of the gospel in this passage. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being highest), how active are you in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ? Read Phil 1:6
4. Read 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 2. Are there any legitimate accusations that others could bring against your character? Are you above reproach in every area of your life? Would your “track record” serve you or harm you against a false accusation? What steps do you need to take to correct this?
5. Paul uses the concept of motherhood/fatherhood to characterize his relationship with the Thessalonican believers. What are the differences in those roles and why are both important? Which role are you better at? Which would you need to improve to be a better spouse, parent, friend and co-worker?
6. Who are you strategically discipling; nurturing, exhorting, comforting, and urging to live a live worthy of the Lord? What will you do this week to help another believer grow in Christ?
7. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart for anything that may be hindering your walk, your testimony or your influence for Christ. Take a moment now to be reconciled with God.

Bob Hallman - The Epic Life
Copyright, Bob Hallman, 1996-2021, All Rights Reserved.