

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
 - 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
- E. He dealt with them like a **father**: - 1 Cor 4:15-16
 - 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 Thessalonian 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 life 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.