

1 Thessalonians 2

1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

V1 – If we can read between the lines, we will see that some of the Jews of Thessalonica were slandering Paul, so he was reminding the Christians that he was honest in his dealing with the church there

-**Why did Paul use the word "yourselves"?** Intensive pronoun

-**What could Paul say about the time that he spent in Thessalonica?** It was not in vain, not wasted

V2 – **What had happened to Paul at Philippi?** *Acts 16:23* – Beaten severely and thrown into jail overnight without a trial

-**Why did Paul have to have boldness to speak at Thessalonica?** Because he had just left Philippi

-**What words describe the general reception that he received at Thessalonica?**
Much opposition

V3 – **Apparently, what was being said about the preaching of Paul at Thessalonica?**

It was full of error, impurity, and deceit

-**Do we have these same three kinds of charges against preachers today?** Yes, some say we are preaching error in the Lord's church

-Some say that we are preaching with the wrong motives

-Some say that we are being intentionally deceitful

V4 – **What was Paul's attitude toward the gospel?** He was "entrusted" with it

-In other words, a valuable thing was given to him for safe keeping.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:16

-**What was Paul's attitude toward the preaching of the gospel?** Not to please men, but God (*Acts 5:29*)

-What a great verse for all who stand before an audience to preach

-It is very hard to say some things when you know that there are people in the audience who are guilty of that sin

-The preacher first has to remember his own sins, but he must always preach in such a way as to please God

V5 – **What therefore did not describe the preaching of Paul?** No flattering speech, not for greed

-See *1 Corinthians 2:1-4* (Paul's philosophy of preaching)

V6 – **What other motive did Paul not have at Thessalonica?** Not preaching there to get glory

-*"Apostles"* must be used in the general sense ("those sent out"), probably not a reference to the twelve original apostles

V7 – **What was Paul's attitude at Thessalonica toward the Christians there?** Gentle,

like a nursing mother

-What should the attitude of a mother toward the children she has nursed?

Warm, loving, caring, technical name today: bonding

V 8 – How had Paul gone beyond preaching the gospel of Christ to them? He had given his own life for them

1 Thessalonians 2.9-12 – Theme: Encouragement in persecution

V 9 – How had Paul helped the Thessalonians financially? He had supported himself while there

-See *1 Corinthians 9* – the preacher has a right to be paid

-One of the big problems at Thessalonica was that the people did not want to work

-Maybe Paul knew this when he went there, and this was the reason that he worked in addition to preaching

V 10 – How had Paul and the other missionaries behaved at Thessalonica? Devout, blameless, had set a great example themselves

V 11 – How had Paul treated the Thessalonians while he was there? As a father treated his own children

-Does this verse give us an excuse to call the preacher "father"? No, see *Matthew 23:9*

-Notice the phrase: "*each one of us*" – every member of the Thessalonian congregation was important to Paul

V 12 – Does this kingdom exist today? Yes – the Thessalonians were being called into that kingdom

-Since God had invited them to be in his kingdom, how should they have been living? In a worthy manner

1 Thessalonians 2.13-16

V 13 – A very important verse

-What is the responsibility of the preacher? To present the Word of God

-What is the responsibility of the listener? To accept the message

-Were there any preachers whose preaching the people did not accept? Noah, most of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, etc.

-In fact, most of the spokesmen for God in the Bible saw their message rejected

-Today, all we can do is to present the Word of God to people

-We are not responsible for their acceptance of that word

-This is one of the problems with the huge "community" churches - their emphasis is on numbers and entertainment, rather than on presenting the true Word of God

-Also, from this verse, how does this Holy Spirit change us? By our being true to word (not directly, as many groups believe)

V 14 – **What words did Paul use to describe the church?** The church of God in Christ
Jesus

- Other names for the New Testament church:
- My church (*Matthew 16:18*)
- The church (*Acts 8:1*)
- The church of God (*1 Corinthians 1:2*)
- Churches of Christ (*Romans 16:16*)
- The body of Christ (*Ephesians 4:12*)
- The church of the living God (*1 Timothy 3:15*)
- Who had persecuted the churches in Judea?** The Jews

V 15 – **Upon whom did Paul blame to death of Christ?** The Jews

- Would we blame the Jews today for the death of Jesus Christ?** Not really - they were stand-ins for the rest of the human race
- Whom else did the Jews persecute?** The prophets, Paul, the Seven Churches of Asia in *Revelation 2-3*, etc.

V 16 – **When the Jews tried to stop Paul from preaching to the Gentiles, what happened?** The wrath of God built up against the Jews

- Now the Jews themselves were being persecuted (*Acts 18:2*), leading up to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
- The theme of this section: To encourage the Thessalonian Christians during their persecution

1 Thessalonians 2.17-20

V 17 – **What had some of Paul's critics apparently said about him?** He had forsaken the Thessalonian congregation (similar to what they said about him at Corinth (*2 Corinthians 1:17*))

V 18 – **What was Paul's answer to those critics?** He had wanted to come, but could not (Satan had stood in his way)

V 19-20 – **What made Paul happiest?** Thinking about the Thessalonians at the Second Coming of Jesus

- Interesting: the second mention of the Second Coming (*1 Thessalonians 1:10*) – this will have a bearing on the problem at Thessalonica later on in the second letter
- Summary of this chapter: A general word of encouragement, along with a defense of his behavior while at Thessalonica