



Study of: 1 Thessalonians

THEME: THE INTEGRITY OF OUR MINISTRIES

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Chapter 2 Overview:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2 focuses on Paul's defense of his ministry's integrity and his deep, parental affection for the Thessalonian believers. The chapter outlines how the gospel was delivered, how it was received, and the ongoing bond between the apostles and the church.

Chapter 1 Objectives:

1. In what ways do suffering and difficulty seek to influence our testimonies for Christ?
2. What service has God entrusted to you for His kingdom? Whose approval do you seek?
3. How can our words and deeds misalign, causing others to stumble?

Their Suffering

1 Thessalonians 2:1-3 *"For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But [a]even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit."*

- a. **"Suffered before"** - Paul is referring to the incident at Philippi where he and Silas were beaten and jailed for healing the demon-possessed slave girl (Acts 16:16-19)
 - i. The suffering they endured in now reduced their boldness to speak the Gospel
- b. **"We were bold"** - bold as in having the audacity to continue proclaiming the Gospel
 - i. **Acts 4:21** *"21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done."*
 - ii. Through hardships and threats, cultural pressures and norms, he attempts to dampen and to diminish our voices and witness for Christ
- c. **"Our Exhortation"** - They did not allow their hardships to reshape or recast the message of the Gospel
 - i. AMP *"For our appeal [in preaching] does not [originate] from delusion or error or impure purpose or motive, nor in fraud or deceit."*

Q. In what ways do suffering and difficulty seek to influence our testimonies for Christ?

Their Service

1 Thessalonians 2:4-6 *“4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. 5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a [b]cloak for covetousness—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.”*

- Preaching and teaching the gospel is no small matter; it is consequential and life-changing
- It is NOT to be taken casually nor entered into unseriously
 - approved - dokimazo - “doe-ka-mah-zo” - examined and tested and found fit
 - entrusted - to be assigned responsibility - trusted to be accomplished
- So much of what we call preaching is NOT the gospel [B, L, D, R, and R]
- Their service to the church wasn't to gain the applause of people (v6)
 - **Matthew 6:1** *“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”*
- Principle: The applause of men is no guarantee of the approval of God

Q. What service has God entrusted to you for His kingdom? Whose approval do you seek?

Their Conduct

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 *“10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and [c]harged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”*

- “You are our witnesses” - people are watching how we behave as we serve
 - **1 Ths 1:5** *“5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.”*
- “Devoutly[holy], justly[righteous manner], and blamelessly[with wrongdoing]” - this is how we should behave ourselves as we serve
- “Exhorted[encouraged], comforted[console], and charged[challenged]” - this is balanced ministry
- The motive: that we walk worthy of the Lord who called us into His own kingdom and glory!
- **Mark 9:42** *“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe and trust in Me to stumble [that is, to sin or lose faith], it would be better for him if a heavy millstone [one requiring a donkey’s strength to turn it] were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.”*

Q. How can our words and deeds misalign, causing others to stumble?

Bonus Question:

Q. Who is Jason, and how did he suffer for the kingdom?