

I THESSALONIANS

Chapter 2:1-16

II. PAUL'S ENTRANCE UNTO THE THESSALONIANS

- A. Showed that he and his fellow-workers were faithful witnesses despite persecution (1-2)
1. Even though Paul and his companions had suffered at Philippi, when they came to Thessalonica they were faithful to keep on witnessing (2). Note Acts 16:16-40.
 2. Note the boldness they possessed was in "**Our God**". In other words Paul and his fellow-workers were so conscience of the presence and power of God that they were not afraid to speak the gospel (2).
- B. Showed that he and his fellow-workers were faithful stewards with the gospel (3-6).
1. They didn't use some deceptive means to exhort the Thessalonians. Neither did they use impure motives, bait or trickery (3).
Oftentimes folks try to present the gospel using any means available to do so. They attempt to exhort others by pretending to do one thing and come up doing another. They advertise and bait to draw crowds then it's another story. Paul and his companions just boldly spoke the gospel as faithful stewards.
 2. As faithful stewards with the gospel they preached to please God (4). Often today there are those who preach to please men or have a ministry that doesn't offend anyone.
 3. As faithful stewards with the gospel they didn't use flattering words nor did they wear a cloak of covetousness (5). In other words they didn't preach and try to gain converts by flattering or praising those without Christ. They didn't use the gospel as a cloak or mask with a motive underneath of covetousness.
 4. As faithful stewards with the Gospel they didn't seek glory from men because they were

apostles, nor did they become burdensome or demand sustenance which was their right (6) .

C. Showed that he and his fellow-workers were concerned about others and dedicated to their work(7-9) .

1. Just like a nursing mother cherishes or cares for her own, so were Paul and his companions concerned about the Thessalonians (7) .

2. Just as a nursing mother is so affectionate and her children so dear that she would give her own life for them, Paul and his companions would have given their lives for the Thessalonians(8) .

3. The fact that Paul and his fellow-workers supported themselves while they preached the gospel to the Thessalonians showed how dedicated they were to their work (9) .

D. Showed that he and his fellow-workers first set the proper examples and then exhorted others to follow (10-12) .

1. They behaved themselves holily, justly and unblamably among the Thessalonian believers (10) . Before God they lived holy lives or separated lives; before men they lived righteously or showing righteousness instead of sin. Being unblamable, if a charge were made it wouldn't stick.

2. Just as a father exhorts, encourages, and charges his children so did Paul the Thessalonian converts that they might walk worthy of God as children of His Kingdom (11 , 12) . Walking worthily of God is to live with the spiritual ambition of becoming conformed to the character of God. Since God is holy we are to be holy (I Pet. 1 : 15) . Since God is love we are to love (I Jn. 4 : 7 - 8) . Since God is good we are to be good (Rom. 2 : 4 ; Matt. 5 : 16) etc.

III. PAUL'S EFFECT UPON THE THESSALONIANS (2 : 13 - 16)

A. Was evidenced by the way they received God's Word (13)

1. He was thankful because when they heard the word, they received it as God's Word and not man's word.
 2. So often folks hear God's Word and relegate it to only the preacher's interpretation or opinion. Note this word had an effect upon those that believed. Such effect is stated in verse 14.
- B. Was evidenced by the way they suffered persecution for their belief (14-16).
1. The Thessalonians who believed became followers or "**imitators**" of the Judaeian churches. For as the Judaeian churches had suffered persecution from their own people, the Jews, so did the Thessalonians suffer persecution from their own people (14).
 2. The Jews that persecuted the Judaeian churches are described in verses 15 and 16.
 - a. They killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets (15).
 - b. They persecuted Paul and the apostles (15). Note Acts 17:5-9.
 - c. They were not (presently) pleasing God although they were sincere, zealous, and religious, because they were ignorant (15). Note Rom 10:1-3).
 - d. They were against all other men as the wind is against those who attempt to sail a different course (15).
 - e. They forbade Paul and others to witness to the Gentiles that they might be saved. Notice such actions were filling up their sins or reaching the limits of God's longsuffering with sinners (16). The wrath that "came" upon them (the Jews) has reference to their being scattered and cursed for their rejection and rebellion against God.

