



September 21, 2025
Worship Service
Pastor Bruce Adrian
WeAreLifeBridge.com

1 Thessalonians: Holiness & Hope in a Hostile World

Lesson Five • 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

Ministry Not In Vain

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Requires BOLDNESS in God to declare the gospel with authenticity.

*For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.
1 Thessalonians 2:1-2*

Paul the Defendant

Paul's defense of his ministry was not for his own SELF-INTEREST but for the truth of the gospel and the Thessalonians' faith in the gospel.

Ministry Not in Vain

1. Boldly Declaring the Gospel with Authenticity Results in Effective MINISTRY!

Paul's Honest Assessment

Paul boldly declared the gospel despite severe OPPOSITION in Philippi and Thessalonica (v. 1-2).

2. Boldly Declaring the Gospel with Authenticity Springs from Godly MOTIVES!

Paul's Divine Approval

Paul was APPROVED by God to be entrusted with the gospel (v. 4).

Paul's Present Appeal

- Paul's message doesn't spring from ERROR or impurity or deceit (v. 3).
- Paul's motive springs from a desire to please GOD not people (v. 4).

3. Boldly Declaring the Gospel with Authenticity Comes with Honest METHODS!

Paul's Past Approach

- Paul never came with words of FLATTERY (v. 5).
- Paul never came with pretext for GREED (v. 5).
- Paul never sought GLORY from people (v. 6).

Two Distractions to Guard Against

Seeking APPROVAL from people and COMFORT from material gain will distract you from living a life not in vain.