

**SERIES TITLE: ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN**

**PART TWO: PUTS THE GOSPEL FIRST**

**TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-20**

**INTRODUCTION.**

The church in Thessalonica was started by the Apostle Paul. Although many believed (Acts 17) Paul had to run for his life from an angry mob. Concerned about the young church, Paul sent Timothy to find out. Timothy reported that the church was doing well, but was under a lot of pressure. There were some moral problems, and confusion about the return of Christ. So Paul wrote this first letter of encouragement and instruction. Repeatedly he tells them how to live in light of the coming Christ.

**DISCUSSION.**

If you were to ask 10 people you know at TWP to explain the gospel, how many do you think would be able to give a clear answer, and why do you think so?

**EXAMINATION.**

- Why does Paul have to defend his visit as “not a failure”? vv.1-2
- List all the characteristics of Paul’s ministry of the gospel in vv.3-12.
- Which characteristics do you think are most lacking in God’s messengers today? Why?
- What does it mean for the gospel to be “at work in you who believe”? vv.13-16
- When Paul refers to the Thessalonian believers as our “glory and joy” v.20, does that sound over-the-top to you? Why or why not?

**APPLICATION.**

- How is it possible to share both the gospel and your life with someone?
- If you have ever seen impurity, greed, etc. impact the message of the gospel, what did that look like?
- Has there been a time when suffering confirmed God’s work in you? Explain.

- What are some of the common barriers that prevent you from sharing the good news with others?
- What might be accomplished in your life if you made this your prayer?  
*Jesus, your gospel transformed me. Empower me to share that gospel and my soul with someone, for the joy of seeing them in your presence.*
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?