

Faithfulness in Serving God, I Thessalonians 2:1-8

Acts 16:40-17:10

Thessalonica Here We Come

Acts 16:40 They left the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brothers and sisters, they encouraged them and departed.

Acts 17:1-3 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul's custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

Acts 17:4-5 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a significant number of the leading women. But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and they attacked the house of Jason and were seeking to bring them out to the people.

Acts 17:6-7 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

Acts 17:8-10 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them. The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

I Thessalonians 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sakes.

I Thessalonians 2:1-2 For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our reception among you was not in vain but after we had already suffered and been treated abusively in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

I Thessalonians 2:5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, now with a pretext for greed-God is our witness...

I Thessalonians 2:9-11 'For you recall, brothers and sisters, our labor and hardship: it was by working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you that we proclaimed to you the

gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly and rightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children.

#### THE VISIT OF THE TEAM & THEIR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

I Thessalonians 2:1-2 For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our reception among you was not in vain but after we had already suffered and been treated abusively in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

Our reception was not in vain

The Gospel was proclaimed with boldness in our God

The Gospel was proclaimed while facing opposition

I Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves report about us as to the kind of reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.

The Gospel -

Acts 17:2-3 And according to Paul's custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

#### THE MOTIVES OF THE TEAM & THE DEFENSE OF THEIR INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

1 THESSALONIANS 2:3-6 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but to please God, who examines our hearts. For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is our witness— nor did we seek honor from people, either from you or from others, though we could have asserted our authority as apostles of Christ.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:11-12 Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

#### INTEGRITY

No Error = Truth

No Impurity = Pure Motives

No Deceit = Honesty

1 THESSALONIANS 2:4-6 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but to please God, who examines our hearts. For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is our witness— nor did we seek honor from people, either from you or from others, though we could have asserted our authority as apostles of Christ.

Approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel  
God examines our hearts  
God is our witness

DEUTERONOMY 8:2 And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Psalms 66:10 For you, God, tested us; You refine us like silver.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Essentials for encouragement:

Truth NOT error  
Pure motives NOT impure motives  
Honesty NOT deceit  
Please God NOT please people

I Thessalonians 2:9 For you recall, brothers and sisters, our labor and hardship: it was by working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, that we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

THE CONCERN OF THE TEAM & THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN MINISTRY

I Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we proved to be gentle among you. As a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children, in the same way we had a fond affection for you and were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

Paul's encouragement:

Gentle among you and cared for you like a mom does her baby.  
Fond affection for you  
Delighting to share the Gospel with you  
Delighted to share our lives with you  
Because you became dear to us

PAUL did these things well

PAUL did these things well  
JESUS did these things perfectly

PAUL did these things well  
JESUS did these things perfectly  
WE must do these things

APPLICATION:

Our source of boldness is in our God as we share the Gospel  
Our life/ministry is characterized by integrity: Truth - Purity - Honesty  
Our goal is to please God not people, while caring about people