

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Our Exhortation
1 Thessalonians 2

Last time...while Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months teaching the Word of God, he wrote a letter of great affection to the fellowship at Thessalonica to

- reassure the believers about the return of Jesus Christ for them
- encourage the believers in their affliction to continue in the faith until then

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he wrote of very important doctrines, starting in the very first chapter (doctrine: what God has said)

- The Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Election
- Affliction
- The return of Jesus Christ

This time...we consider “our exhortation”

- The Lord’s to the believers in Thessalonica thru Paul, Silas, and Timothy
- The Lord’s to us thru the Living Word
- The Lord’s to those in our spheres of influence thru us

We will be in 1 Thes 2

v1-2 our entrance...suffered...we were bold:

In this chapter the Holy Spirit thru Paul will remind the Thessalonians of what they know

They know that Paul’s, Silas’, and Timothy’s coming to them was not

- in vain
- empty
- unfruitful
- a waste of time

Acts 17:1-4
Ch 1:9-10

Is 55:10-11 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

They know that even after being so inhumanely and wrongfully abused in Philippi (Acts 16)

- stripped
- beaten
- whipped
- shackled in prison

Paul, Silas, and Timothy were undeterred from sharing the Good News of God, were “bold in our God”

- confident in spirit, having no confidence in the flesh (Phil 3:3)
- frank in speech
- matter-of-fact

the sky is blue, grass is green, and Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead on the 3rd day to conquer death

v3-4 our exhortation:

(They know) Paul’s and Silas’ and Timothy’s exhortation...
the Gospel, 2 Cor 5:20b...

1. was not

- of deceit...fraudulent
- of uncleanness...morally impure and defiled
- in guile...a trick, bending the truth to fit their plan
(a false teacher with selfish motives would use these to avoid contention)

2. was

- what they got to do...to be a part of what God was doing
- approved by God
- God’s treasure entrusted to them
 - 1 Cor 4:1-2
 - 2 Cor 4:1-7
- shared to please God and not man
 - Gal 1:8-12
 - what God had said, not what man wanted to hear
(a false teacher would speak to please man and not God)

Who would suffer such violent abuse for a selfish, man-made message?

The cheerful endurance of the messengers speaks to the truth of the message

v5-6 flatterer words...cloke of covetousness...sought:

They also know that Paul and Silas and Timothy did not at any time

- use flatterer words
 - insincere compliments masking a hidden agenda
 - ear-tickling messages (Cross-less Gospel, which is powerless)
 - political correctness
 - the gospel is not flatterer, the truth about man is not flatterer; the gospel is offensive to and a bitter pill to swallow for proud, unregenerate man
 - rather, just truth plainly spoken, uncompromised and undiluted
- use a cloke of covetousness
 - disguise greed for money and wealth with a “Godly” façade
 - preach the Gospel as a pretext to get rich
 - misrepresent the True and Living God with idolatry (Col 3:5)
- seek the praise and applause (celebrity status) of men
 - risk sullyer the purity of their motives and preaching the words of God to these babes in Christ by stumbling them with “a workman is worthy of his wages”
 - never want anyone to say they were doing this for the money

v7-8 gentle...affectionately desirous...labor and travail:

But (as they also know) that these servants of God were

- gentle
 - kind, as God is kind
 - nurturing, as a mother is with her newborn child (Is 49:15-16)
- affectionately desirous of them
 - loving
 - seeking their good, their best interest
- willing to freely give
 - the Gospel of God (John 3:16)
 - their lives...pouring their lives into them

because they were beloved (*agapao*) by Paul and Silas and Timothy

This is a letter of great affection!

How does the fellowship at Thessalonica know all these things (v1-8)?

v9-10 labor and travail...holily and justly and unblameably:

Because they are eyewitnesses of Paul's and Silas' and Timothy's lives lived before them

1. physical toil...labor and travail

- tentmakers, providing for themselves to remove any association of money with the Gospel (v6)
- laboring during the day for their daily bread

2. spiritual toil

- laboring at night, preaching the Gospel (Matt 4:4)
- walking the talk...behavior, doctrine seen
 - holily...Christ-like
 - justly...Christ-like
 - unblameably...above reproach, without fault

They lived the Gospel for all to see...preaching God's Truth by action
Actions consistent with our words is a critical part of exhortation;
actions speak louder than words.

v11-12 we...that ye would:

The Thessalonians know that in word and in deed Paul and Silas and Timothy have sincerely

- exhorted...called, invited them to be reconciled to God
- comforted...encouraged and consoled in their affliction (Ch 1:6)
- charged...testified of Jesus Christ

How?

As a father does his children that he loves unconditionally

Why?

So that they would walk worthy, appropriately before God Who has purchased them with His blood (Acts 20:28)

Eph 4:1-3 also lived in front of them

btw...this is how a father/grandfather/uncle is to deal with his children

1. encouraging
2. comforting
3. living Godly lives

i.e. in word and in deed...doing what we say

v13 than we God...received...the word of God:

With the heart of a loving father, the servants of God thank the Father that these beloved brethren

- received/learned the Word of God...heard and considered it
- received/accepted the Word of God...believed it

as

- not the eternally powerless words of men
- it truly is – the eternally powerful, life-changing Word of God
 - Luke 11:28 **blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it**
 - James 1:21
 - 2 Timothy 3:15 the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - The Bread of Life (John 6:35, Matt 4:4) that changes us on the inside and is “worked out” to change the outside that is seen by others
(v10, Phil 2:12-13)

v14 became followers of the churches:

What is the evidence that this fellowship in Thessalonica has v13?

As believers in what God has said, they face worldly resistance and hostility...just as the churches/fellowships in Judea

Just as the Jewish fellowships suffered under the persecution of the Jews, the Gentile fellowships suffered under the persecution of the Gentiles

The world is hostile to what God has said

Matt 5:10-12 **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

Matt 5:44 **Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you**

v15-16 killed...persecuted...forbidding:

Paul, a Jew with a great burden for his people, speaks of his people's reaction to what God has said

The Jews that did not v13

- put to death the Lord Jesus Christ
 - in cahoots with the Gentiles
 - foreknown by the all-knowing God (Acts 2:23)
 - overcome by the power of God (John 10:17-18)
- put to death the Jewish prophets..."Repent!" and foretold of Jesus
- persecuted believers in the Lord Jesus Christ
- forbidding/hindering believers to speak of the goodness and grace and love of the God of Israel to the Gentiles
 - as spoken of by the prophets
 - as evidenced in
 - Jerusalem
 - Antioch in Pisidia
 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Corinth

Thereby, in their unbelief they are

- not pleasing God...Heb 11:6, Rom 2:28-29
- contrary/antagonistic to the nations
 - vs loving as their God and as His witness to them
- filling up/completing their sin (Dan 9:24), at the end of which will come upon them the wrath of God
 - near term: 70 AD
 - far term: the return of Jesus Christ...the 2nd Coming to earth, as Judge and Conquering King when John 5:43

v17-18 taken from you for a short time...Satan hindered us:

Paul and Silas and Timothy "mourn" the separation from the fellowship in Thessalonica

The Holy Spirit, using persecution (Rom 8:28), moved them to Berea then Athens then Corinth

And they long, yearn, for a "family reunion" and want to come visit them again... but Satan is hindering them

A spiritual battle (against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness) to be fought with spiritual weapons (prayer, the Word of God) in spiritual places (in high places, in the heavenlies)

v19-20 what is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing:

Why are Paul and Silas and Timothy

- speaking frankly, matter-of-factly, of the things of God?
- preaching the Gospel in the face of suffering and persecution?
- laboring night and day?
- pouring their lives into people?
- living Christ-like lives before God and men?

What is their

- hope...anticipation of the blessing of God?
- joy...delight?
- crown of rejoicing...victor's crown?

These people, the fellowship at Thessalonica...

in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ at His coming to the clouds
(a mystery being revealed in this letter)

The people...not the building/campus, the bank account, the brand, the religion...

are the reason for all the work and suffering and love

- to be reunited in the clouds with Jesus Christ!
- to see them in heaven!

Application/Lessons

Our exhortation...as we have received, we give

- spoken boldly (v2)...frankness, matter-of-factness in the course of every day conversation (Bulletin message)

Boldness/frankness/matter-of-factness starts in the fellowship

There is no reason to not

- know everybody's name in this fellowship
- talk to everyone every Sunday morning

Then boldness/frankness goes with us as we leave here

1 Peter 3:15 sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always
to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of
the hope that is in you with meekness and fear

Meekness and fear are NOT contradictory to "bold in our God"!

- not fraudulent or deceitful (v3)
- to please God, not man (v4)...what we get to do to be a part of what God is doing
- plain speak, not ear-tickling and insincere flattery (v5)
- not with self-serving covetousness (v5)
- not as glory hounds craving the applause of man (v6)

- with the nurturing gentleness of a parent (v7)
- with selfless and self-last love (v8)
- with “doctrine that is seen” (v10)...Christ-like lives above reproach
- not “for profit”, self-gain (v9)
- with parental guidance (v11)
 - Eph 4:15 speaking the truth in love
 - 1 John 3:18 let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth
 - 1 Peter 1:22 love one another with a pure heart fervently
 - 2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth
 - 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth

so that v12 and v13

and expecting hindrance now and great joy later, at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

because v19-20, the people...

- you to me
- the SLSSA to me and some of you
- those in your sphere of influence to you

are our hope and joy and crown of rejoicing in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ

Satan is hindering now but the Word of God is not bound as we go forth from here as the ambassadors of Jesus Christ...

conducting our lives just as did Paul and Silas and Timothy did in Thessalonica