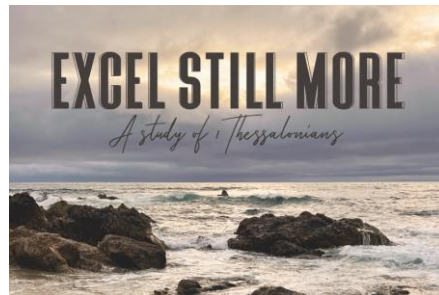


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31



September 17, 2023

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Key Characteristics of a Faithful Ministry

Main Idea

After Paul, Silas and Timothy were forced to leave Thessalonica, opponents of the gospel slandered them as immoral and greedy charlatans. In Paul's defense to the believers who were themselves the fruit of the Thessalonians mission, four authenticating marks of faithful gospel ministry emerge.

Outline

Four Characteristics of Faithful Ministry

1. Faithful ministry is tough
2. Faithful ministry is tested and approved by God
3. Faithful ministry is tenderhearted

4 qualities of tenderhearted ministry:

- Tenderhearted ministry is gentle
- Tenderhearted ministry is up close and personal
- Tenderhearted ministry is nurturing
- Tenderhearted ministry is exceptionally loving

4. Faithful Ministry is tenacious

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

- #1 Why does opposition typically follow faithful gospel ministry?

- #2 Reflecting on v.v. 3 – 6, how important is the believer's personal integrity? What does it enable him to do when false allegations are made against him?

- #3 What is the significance of the fact that the missionaries ministered "among" the Thessalonians?

- #4 What is the motive for tenderhearted ministry?

- #5 Was Paul serious about personally discipling the people he led to Christ? What verses from today's message support this assertion?