

We left off last week with the following points:

- 1) The persecutions that the Apostle face in Philippi did not hinder him from preaching in Thessalonica.
- 2) The Apostle points out that everything he said and did were with clean and clear intentions.
- 3) That he did his duty and obligation by preaching the Gospel with boldness despite being persecuted.
- 4) Then we talked about our responsibility as believers to also love one another. That we are called to love the Church, His body and that God and His church are connected.

The Apostles continues his case of true intentions and unselfish love for the Thessalonians.

He continues to his point...

(6) Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

A) The Apostle Paul being an Apostle had certain authority given to him by God and could

have made demands, yet he chose to put aside himself for the sake of others.

He lived sacrificially as a servant of Jesus Christ.

B) Paul even indicated that he did not care or seek the glory of men but being a servant of Christ, he served as Christ served.

This is different than what many think being a Pastor or leader is today.

Mark 10:42-45 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (43) Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. (44) And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (45) For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."



As we read the next verses let us consider the analogies and emotions in his writing.

Instead of puffing his chest and demanding what is rightfully his he states...

(7) But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

(8) So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

A) Gentle among you, as a mother to a child, longing for you, even giving our own life, becoming dear to us.

B) While all of us are not Apostles and Shepherds, we should have this same love for the brethren.

1 John 4:11-12 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Contrary to many people's beliefs...this is not all about you. We do not come in here, eat of the table, partake in selfish worship and praise, selfish prayer, and reserve ourselves for ourselves. If our society teaches us anything today, it is isolation, selfish-worth, and entitlement.

In·tro·vert noun

a person who is predominantly focused on internal thoughts and feelings rather than on external things or social interaction, often characterized as being quiet or withdrawn.

If you are an introvert, this is not the time. We come in here to worship Christ and to love His people.



Paul states, his love for the Church was not out of selfish ambition or vain glory.

The Apostle lived the example of his writing to the Philippians:

Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

(4) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Referring back to his conduct in Thessalonica he writes...

(9) For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

A) This is not the first or only Church where the Apostle Paul expressed his work and love for

the Church by putting his own sweat, blood, and labor, so to not burden the Church, but to be a provider.

1 Corinthians 9:14-15 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

2 Corinthians 11:7 Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

(15) But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.

He continues,

(10) You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

(11) as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,

(12) that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

A) Listen to the three ways of how the Apostle walked and how we are encouraged to do the same,

1. Devoutly - hosiōs hos-ee'-oce Adverb from G3741; piously = Religiously Sacred. Having a Christ centered mind and conscienceness.

2. Justly – dikaiōs dik-ah'-yoce Adverb from G1342; equitably: - Living and being righteous. Doing what is right in the sight of God.

3. Blamelessly - amemptōs am-emp'-toce Adverb from G273; faultlessly: - blameless. Without blame. Living with consideration of others, their thoughts, and feelings.

As the Apostle laid out an example for the Christians in Thessalonica to walk, so should we walk in that same manner.

Ultimately while this Chapter so far is the Apostle Paul proving that he was genuine, it

lays out an example for us as Christians to follow likewise. To be sacrificial in our love and devotion for Christ and His Church even in the midst of external and even internal trials and tribulations.

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1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

A) The one thing that made the Thessalonians very effective in the way they lived is the fact that they believed and received everything the Apostle Paul said, as the Word of God.

B) So it is today. The difference between an effectual and fruitful believer is how they perceive the words that are spoken in the scriptures and what they do with them.

Let's take a look at the words of our Lord...

John 15:1-17 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

(3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(5) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

(8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

...(16) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that

whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (17) These things I command you, that you love one another.

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(14) For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

A) The common reality that is found with people who truly live the life for Jesus Christ is that it is not absent of some form of persecution and hate.

Matthew 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. (While this is a statement that alludes to the time or tribulation, it is a reality for many today.)

2 Timothy 3:12 (12) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

These same Judeans did not only persecute me...

(15) who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,(16) forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

A) It is very clear what the Apostle and the scriptures say of some of the Jews and others that persecuted them.

1. They kill the messengers of God.

Matthew 23:37-38 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! (38) Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

2. They do not please God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

3. They are truly against people.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

And

4. They do not want people to know the truth and be saved. They are storing up for themselves wrath.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

....Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

In Conclusion,

(17) But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. (18) Therefore we wanted to

come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. (19) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (20) For you are our glory and joy.

In conclusion,

Paul's goal was to see the believers in Thessalonica saved and in the arms of Christ. Just as it should be a concern for us to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

To encourage them to seek the Lord, to grow, and to love.