

1 Thessalonians 2

Jesus

Paul writing from Corinth to young church of Thessalonians:
Response to hearing they are growing in the Lord

- **Chapter 1:** Growth through **Faithful Preaching**
 1. Preached Gospel in Power of Holy Spirit
 2. Preached Gospel with Joy of Holy Spirit
- **Chapter 2:** Growth through **Faithful Pastoring**
 1. Came to them in Truth, Integrity and Transparency
 2. Came along side them Gently yet w/Authority of one approved by God

Key verse: You received the Word of God as the Word of God
Which is effectively **works in you...** v13

1 Thessalonians 1:9 [People talking] ... how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10** and to **wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath** to come.

Not everybody's happy w/Thessalonians getting saved
Enemies of Truth began to slander Paul/Message after he left for Corinth

- Paul addresses this concern as here in Ch. 2 ...

I. You Know Overcoming Slander

1 For **you yourselves know**, brethren, that our coming to you was **not in vain**. 2 But even after we had suffered before and were **spitefully treated at Philippi**, as you know, we were **bold in our God** to speak to you the **gospel of God in much conflict**. 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

- **v 1** You yourselves know
- **v 2,5,11** As you know
- **v 9** You remember
- **v 10** You are our witnesses

IOWs don't let your enemies rewrite what you know happened
when We came to you after being beaten in Philippi

- **We were Bold in our God...**

[Phrase]... denotes a state of mind when words flow freely, attitude of feeling are quite at home w/no sense of stress or strain. This attitude includes both boldness/confidence.
[Morris]

- **Accusation:** Religious Jews
 1. **Erroneous** Not of God/Not sent by God
 2. **Unclean** Motivated by personal gain

3. **Deceitful** Crafty/Catch you w/bait for personal glory

From the mouth of Satan...Accuser of the brethren
Intent? Discourage Thessalonians Believers/Discredit Paul's Ministry

IOWs If Paul was discredited, then the Gospel message itself would be discredited. [Guzik]

Paul was not confused as to his mission

4 But as we have been **approved by God** to be **entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak**, not as pleasing men, but **God who tests our hearts.**

Titus 1:3 ... [God] has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was **committed to me** according to the commandment of **God our Savior...**

- Thus...Paul was not hindered by opposition. As a matter of fact, ...
- **Slander/Beatings** were discussed at his job orientation meeting w/ Jesus

Acts 9:16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

- **Yet...The message stays the same. Period.**

1. We have been **Approved by God**
2. We have been **Entrusted w/Gospel**

We are not seeking to please men...we don't give a hoot what they say about us
We seek to Please God who Sent us and will Judge us

1 Corinthians 4:2b... it is required in stewards that one be **found faithful.** 3 But with me **it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court...4b** He who judges me is the Lord.

Acts 4:18 ...they called [Peter and John] and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "**Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.** 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." To whom would we go?

We are God Pleasers not People Pleasers

Galatians 1:9 ... if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed.** 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? **Or do [even] I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.**

- Some think it's safer to please man rather than God? To say what they want to hear...

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

Luke 12:4 And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before

God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- Some think it's safer to fear man rather than God. No.
- Some think it's wiser to fear man rather than God. No.

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of wisdom...**

Our mission is **from God** and will answer **to God**
Our message is true. Our motives are pure.

5 For neither at any time did we use **flattering words, as you know**, nor a **cloak for covetousness—God is witness**. 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

No pablum/sermonette about living your best life now
You are sinners desperately in need of a Savior! Blood of Jesus Alone!

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

McGee on liberal church services when a mild-mannered man gets up before a group of mild-mannered people and urges them to be more mild-mannered oh that is sickening my friend

- Flattery Weapon of the devil...

Proverbs 26:28 ... a flattering mouth **works ruin**.

Proverbs 29:5 A man who **flatters** his neighbor **Spreads a net** for his feet.

- **Flattery disarms the victim:** Flatterer want something from you

True friends tell us what we need to hear...not always what we want to hear

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend/the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

The key difference between flattery/compliment lies in the sincerity. Flattery is excessive or insincere praise whereas compliments are a genuine appreciation of something or someone.

- Did not use Flattery: This is the message. Take it or leave it
- **Nor deceit for personal gain:** Asked nothing of you. Want nothing from you

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not, as **so many**, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak **in the sight of God in Christ**.

2 Corinthians 12:15 [Labor of Love] ...I will very gladly **spend and be spent** for your souls... to see you in heaven

Paul's Labor of Love to the Thessalonians

To this baby Church Paul acted in the roles of both Mother/Father in Faith

SUMMARY As you know...We made no demands...

II. As a Mother Nurturing and Nourishing

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**.

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care

- **Care of a mother:** Caring for her children/voluntary submission
 1. **Gentle:** Patient in their understanding/acceptance of the Word
 2. **Affectionate:** Motivated by love and their best interests
 3. **Delighted:** To share the Gospel and his life [Attention/Time] as a mother

Genesis 1:27 ...God created man in His own image; in the **image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

- Men/Women together display the image of God
- Ministry should display both **discipline of a father/caring of a mother**

Matthew 23:37b [Gentle care of God toward us] ...How often I wanted to gather your children together, **as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...**

- **Paul cares as Nursing Mother** feeding babes w/Word of God....

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**.

2 Thessalonians 3:8 [We did not...] eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with **labor and toil night and day**, that we might not be a burden to any of you

- **Labored as a Tentmaker:** Paul was bi-vocational. Tentmaker/Preacher
- **Labored as a Teacher of the Word:** 3-week-24/7 Seminary in Thessalonica

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care
They knew Paul cared by his actions...Gentle/Loving as a mother w/child

SUMMARY As a Mother Nurturing and Nourishing

III. As a Father Exhorting/Persuading/Charging

10 **You are witnesses**, and God also, how devoutly [holy] 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,

- Nurturing of a mother vv7-8
- **Discipline of a father:** Just/Blameless in sight of his kids
 1. **Exhorted:** Told them what they need to hear...needed to do
 2. **Comforted:** lit to **persuaded them** by drawing near/reasoning
 3. **Charged:** [W/Urgency] **Be who God called you to be...**

12 [to] **walk worthy of God** who calls you into His own **kingdom and glory.**

Walk Worthy...Like we did

Paul's Example? Holy before God...Blameless before men v10

IOWs This is who you are...so this is how you act

Who are you: One called by the King of Kings to be with Him in Glory

How do you act: As one called by the King of Kings ready to be with Him in Glory

Walk Worthy: Calling/Actions Balanced. Who we are/What we do equal same weight

- **Walking Worthy of who we are practically...**

Colossians 1:10 ... that you may **walk worthy of the Lord**, fully **pleasing Him**, being **fruitful in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God...**

- **Pleasing** Believing God the Father
- **Fruitful** Yielding to His Spirit
- **Growing** Knowledge of Jesus/His Word

Ephesians 4:1 ...**walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called, 2 with all **lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

- **Humble** I must decrease He must increase
- **Gentle** Meek. Strength under control of the Spirit
- **Patient** Longsuffering as God is with us
- **Loving** God/Others. Ready for His Kingdom/Glory **to which we are called...**

His Kingdom Millennial Kingdom 1000 - Year reign of Christ on Earth

His Glory Eternal Kingdom Dwelling of God without end

SUMMARY As a Father Exhorting and Charging. **Walk Worthy to be Ready**

IV. Reception Word of God as the Word of God

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.**

- **We thank God day and night for you...Why?**

You received the Word as the Word of God and not the words of men

That supernatural Seed is now working/growing in your hearts...

1 Peter 1:23 ... [you] have been born again, not of corruptible **seed** but incorruptible, through the **word of God** which lives and abides forever...

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, 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**.

- I know the Seed took root by your response to affliction...

Matthew 13:18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the **wayside**. 20 But he who received the seed on **stony places**, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed **among the thorns** is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he who received seed on the **good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

- Enduring in faith through trials is a sign of Saving Faith

Matthew 10:22 ...you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who **endures to the end will be saved**.

Matthew 24:12 because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But **he who endures to the end shall be saved**.

We are not saved because we endure through trials
We endure through trials because we are saved

- **Trial endured by Paul/Thessalonians same:** Persecuted by their own people
- Paul would teach them [as a father] the hard promises of Jesus during those 3 weeks

John 15:18 If the world hates you, you know that **it hated Me** before it hated you.

Matthew 10:39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake **will find it**.

Matthew 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake **will find it**.

- You may lose friends, family, jobs, status for sake of Christ. Worth it.

Romans 8:18 ...I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory which shall be revealed in us**.

1 Peter 4:13 ... rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be **glad with exceeding joy**.

- Always Enemies of God **from time of creation** storing up God's wrath

Romans 2:5 ... **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to **each one according to his deeds**"

SUMMARY Reception Word of God as the Word of God. Seed effectively working in us

III. Longing

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**.

- **Desire** to see them again...**Hindered** by Satan for now

**Paul was driven out by his enemies
My heart is still with you...**

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?

3 John 1:4 I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- **Chapter 2:** Churches Growth through **Faithful Pastoring**
 1. Came to them in Truth, Integrity and Transparency
 2. Came along side them Gently yet w/Authority of one approved by Go

The people were not just another notch on his belt...
He came in love/continued even through great personal suffering

What kept Paul going through persecution?
Hope of seeing those he ministered to in heaven at the coming of the Lord

20 For **you are our glory and joy**. **What we live for**

SUMMARY Longing