

## Entrusted With the Gospel

1 Thessalonians 2:1-9

1. Intro: What have you been entrusted with? According to the Cambridge dictionary, the word entrust means to give someone a thing or duty for which they are responsible. Maybe you've been given a certain responsibility at your place of work like mopping the floors every week, maybe you've been entrusted with the protection and transport of all the kids on your bus route or understanding and decoding this computer system. If you have kids, you've been entrusted by God to raise them in the instruction of the Lord. In life, we have been given many responsibilities. As Christians, God has entrusted us, given us a message for which we are responsible. We have been entrusted with the gospel. Paul says it like this in 1 Thessalonians 2:4, "but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak." According to 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians, Paul was entrusted with the gospel.
  - a. **Look at map:** Paul was entrusted with the gospel
    - i. 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey
    - ii. vision in Troas to come over to Macedonia
    - iii. passes through a few cities, arrives at Philippi, gets dragged before the authorities, beaten and imprisoned then asked to leave
    - iv. goes to Thessalonica
      1. capital and major port of the whole roman province of Macedonia
      2. On the intersection of two major highways
      3. "the most populous town of Macedonia and the metropolis of the province" – The International standard bible encyclopedia
      4. estimate of 200,000 people – Bible knowledge commentary
      5. shares the gospel in the synagogue for 3 weeks, then is run out of the town by Jews who are Jealous. Before he is kicked out. Some, some Jews come to Christ, "as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women" – Acts 17:4
      6. he was probably only there around a month. When Paul left, he entrusted the gospel to the Thessalonians.
  - b. Thessalonians were entrusted with the gospel
    - i. Within a year or two, Paul writes back to them from Corinth
    - ii. The gospel sounded forth from them. They have shared the gospel in Macedonia and Achaia the surrounding regions.
      1. *"For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything" (1 Thess 1:8)*
  - c. **TRANS:** Just as Paul was entrusted with the gospel, so also he entrusted the Thessalonians with the gospel. In a similar way, if we are believers in Jesus Christ, we are also entrusted with the gospel.
  - d. **TRANS:** Since we are entrusted with the gospel, what do we do with it? In short, we share the gospel. Today, we will go over three things involved with sharing the gospel. We share with Confidence and clarity, we share our lives and share even with a full schedule. Our text will be 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-9. Please turn

there with me and let's read it together. *Read the passage.* First of all, since we are entrusted with the gospel, we are to share with confidence and clarity.

- 1 Share with Confidence and Clarity: *verse 2*
  - a. Define boldness: *"we had boldness"*
    - i. Not necessarily a strong, loud personality, though it could be. Not rudeness or loudness. Not necessarily to ability to talk to strangers and tell them Jesus though it could be. Don't compare personalities. Ask God to make you bold in his way for you.
    - ii. This boldness came from God *"in our God"*
      1. Boldness from the Holy Spirit.
        - a. Major Result of being filled with the Spirit in Acts is boldness to share the gospel even in conflict.
    - iii. Fearless courage, confidence and clarity
      1. Confidence of what to share and when to share
      2. Clarity in the message being given
      3. Fearless – does that mean we are never scared?
    - iv. Obedience and biblical boldness go hand in hand.
    - v. Ex. Of Sharing with Breezley. Ben's scared to share frequently even when he feels prompted.
      1. So scared to say something. This is the opportunity you've been praying for. Hesitancy, fear, once I stepped out, God gave me the words and the boldness to speak.
      2. Step out and obey and God will give you boldness. Other times filled with it. Example of the Israelites crossing the Jordan, they had to take a step before the waters piled up.
  - b. **APP:** We must share the gospel! Even when we are afraid!
    - i. We can't simply just serve others, build relationships and just be their friend. At some point, as the Lord opens doors, we must speak the gospel. Be looking for those opportunities to share. Look to the people around you to share with. God is always working around us, join in with him as the Spirit prompts.
    - ii. Listen to the timing of God.
    - iii. Even young Christians can share the gospel. Example of the Thessalonians.
  - c. **TRANS:** Since we are entrusted with the gospel, God desires us to share with boldness, with confidence and clarity. He not only calls us to share a message, but also our lives.
- 2 Share Our Lives: *verse 7-8*
  - a. It involves a deep, affectionate love for other Christians: *"so, being affectionately desirous of you... you had become very dear to us"*
    - i. Illustration: nursing infant with her mother. Jonathan and Lily.
      1. Care, love, affection, nurture, feeding, attachment, guidance

- ii. Spiritually Loving other believers like a mom with her new baby, loving the with the love God has for us. God love others through me. Example of God loving Lily through me.
    - iii. TRANS: This love is the motive of sharing our lives
  - b. It involves life on life: *“we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves”*
    - i. Spending time with them
    - ii. share the gospel with them
    - iii. Encourage them to live worthy of Christ
    - iv. Give them a godly example to follow
    - v. Be honest with them
  - c. **APP:** Pray about one believer to share your life with, to disciple and invest into, especially a young Christian.
    - i. Most of us don’t have time to invest into three or four or five or 10 people. Some do, and if so, praise the Lord, who is the one person that God is bringing to mind right now to share your life with so that they may know Christ more.
      - 1. A great way I’ve found is meeting once a week, sometimes for an hour or two.
      - 2. They then share life with others and the kingdom of God spreads.
  - d. **APP:** Who is God placing on your heart to invest into?
  - e. **TRANS:** We’ve seen that being entrusted with the gospel means that we share with confidence and clarity, we share our lives with other believers and now, we will see how this fits, in the context of working full time.
- 3 Share With a Full Schedule: *verse 9*
  - a. Working full time, sharing the gospel and investing into the thessalonians: *“for you remember, brothers, our labor and toil, we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God”*
    - i. Paul was a tentmaker. While he worked to provide for himself, he also ministered to the new Thessalonian church that had just been born. What evidence do we have for this?
      - 1. Several stops later on his missionary Journey, Paul arrives in Corinth. He meets aquilla, a Jew and his wife Priscilla
      - 2. *“Because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade” – Acts 18:3*
      - 3. working to provide money and food for him and his companions while also preaching the gospel.
    - ii. Why do this? Why not just have the thessalonians support him?
      - 1. To give them an example to imitate: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9
    - iii. **App:** It is possible to have a full schedule and minister effectively for Christ.
      - 1. High school students, junior or senior, a lot going on. Mom and busy taking care of the kids, someone retired, a lot going on with

family and volunteer, don't let the kingdom of God fall to the wayside. In my own life, its seminary.

2. Parents serving at church, investing into the kingdom of God sets an example for the family
3. "I don't have enough time" – where God calls he provides,
4. what is the one ministry, or person that God is asking you to be involved in?

#### 4 Conclusion:

- a. Summary statement: Since God has entrusted us with the gospel, we have the responsibility to share it. We are to share it with confidence and clarity, to share our lives with others and to share even if we work full time.
- b. Application to the unsaved
  - i. Make a response to the gospel, it must be trusted personally, received, it will change your life and cause you no longer to live for yourself but to live for Christ.
    1. God loves us
    2. We have rebelled against him and gone our own way. We have chosen and said to God, "my will be done, not your will!". We deserve to die and deserve God's fierce anger towards us because of our rebellion.
    3. God loved us enough to give us a second chance and sent his son Jesus Christ from heaven. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and gave his life as a substitute and sacrifice. He died to take our sins upon him that we could be God's righteousness. He died that we may no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus.
    4. He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and is coming again.
    5. By trusting in him personally, receiving him into our lives, acknowledging our sinfulness and asking him to forgive us, we have new life in Christ. He will take us with him to heaven when we die and spare us from the coming wrath of God
    6. If you want to receive Christ, come talk to me up front.
- c. Application to the saved
  - i. Who is God laying on your heart to begin sharing the gospel with? Who is God laying on your heart to invest into, that one person? Where is God laying on your heart to get involved though you have a full schedule?