

# I Thessalonians 2 – 12 November 2023

## “Effecting Our Friends With Jesus”

### Introduction

\*Paul went to Thessalonica on 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Trip w/ Silas & Timothy

\*Just after Philippi (jailor) & before Berea (noble)

\*Only there for 3 weeks & 3 months at most

\*Then they went on to Athens (Unknown God)

\*It's amazing what the Lord can do in a life in a very short period of time!

\*In Chap 1: Paul commended them for their immediate, giant expressions of faith, love & hope in their new life

\*Now in Chap 2: Paul more focuses on the sincerity of the interactions between him & the Thessalonians

\*Let us learn to imitate the example Paul gives us

\*Just as Paul said in (Read) I Thes 1:6

\*Let us be so ready to love our friends w/ Jesus that we soak in this example from the Word of God  
**Today, let's see 4 parts to this idea of effecting our friends with Jesus**

# **1<sup>st</sup> part is the Method: Have sincere intention thru bold contention (Vs 1-4)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. Paul & team didn't hold back or get shy b/c of their abuse at Philippi
2. Even at Thessalonica there was much dust being stirred up & yet they were boldly preaching
3. "With much contention" – the idea is striving or fighting thru the hindrances to give the Gospel
  - a. Same word as "fight" (the good fight of faith) from I Tim 6:12

Read Vs 3-4

1. We're just to give what God gave us
  - a. We don't trick people or lie to them
  - b. We don't offer the Gospel w/ a side of worldly allure (uncleanness)
2. We've been entrusted with something that's already complete & we don't have the option to change it to make it more palatable to people

## Conclusion to Point #1

1. So what method are you using to reach friends?
2. Read II Cor 2:15-17
3. Let's be sure to deliver the simple truth
4. When we put out the sincere yet amazing message of Jesus it'll stir up contention to some
5. Let it do it's work thru the power of the H.S.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> part is the Motive: Not for greedy gain, but for generous giving (Vs 5-9)**

### Read Vs 5

1. They didn't come appearing to want to help but really only wanting to take riches

### Read Vs 6

1. They didn't come seeking respect & applause even though they deserved honor as Apostles

### Read Vs 7

1. They didn't just come with a sterile message but to carefully give it to them

Read Vs 8-9

1. Witnessing should be an offering of your whole being to the person
  - a. We give spiritually the Gospel of life
  - b. We give mentally our attention to them as an individual
  - c. We give physically our tangible love
2. “Not be chargeable” – Do everything we can to be seen as givers and not takers

Conclusion to Point #2

1. What motivates you to share Jesus?
2. Read Tit 1:10-11
3. The selfish should be silenced & the lovers should get loud

**3<sup>rd</sup> part is the Minister: Personal purity & passion for people (Vs 10-13)**

Read Vs 10-11

1. What hinders us from encouraging others to walk worthy (appropriately) of our new life?

- a. Habitual sin? Choose to change & get in a position to encourage others into godliness as a good father would his children
- b. Feeling imperfect? You'll never be good enough or clean enough to start being a leader
  - i. But God has cleansed us making us good enough – go do it

Read Vs 12

1. Realize what goodness we've been brought into at conversion – it's glorious
2. When we realize it, we'll labor to bring Him honor for we see Him as worthy of it

Read Vs 13

1. What a time to rejoice when people accept that we're not trying to promote our church, or "our truth"
  - a. But they see that we're just a conduit for the flow of God's eternal love thru His Word

## **4<sup>th</sup> part is the Members: Our goal is their glorification (Vs 14-20)**

Read Vs 14

1. So they received the Gospel regardless of whether their friends liked it or not
2. It's like trying to be a NY Giants fan in Eagles country – you know what you're getting into
3. We've embraced a new identity as citizens of a new country

Read Vs 15

1. He's comforting the Thessalonians w/ the idea they're on the right track, the same track as all the Christians before them & the Lord Jesus Himself

Read Vs 16

1. Interesting when someone goes farther than just not wanting the Gospel to even not wanting others to hear it either – This is evil

## Read Vs 17-18

1. He wants them to know the reason he hasn't come back isn't for lack of desire
  - a. He hasn't lost his connection of affection
2. There is spiritual warfare that has hindered him
  - a. The Lord gave Paul insight into this spiritual reality (Read Act 16:8-10)
  - b. Daniel was shown the "behind the scenes"
3. Notice 3 things about this spiritual warfare
  - a. Paul acknowledged it's real & can hinder even an apostle
  - b. Paul knew Satan couldn't last forever (Only for a short time)
  - c. Paul never stopped going even while hindered

## Read Vs 19-20

1. So the redirect from Paul to the Lord
  - a. What's more important than being w/ Paul?
    - i. Being with Jesus!
2. Paul shows his connection of affection for them by the expression that he needs no other reward than to know that they'll be w/ Jesus forever

## Conclusion

So how are we doing with giving our friends Jesus?

1. **What method are we using?**
  - a. Don't overcomplicate it, give them the simple truth
  - b. There will be contention w/ some, but others, it's be like gaining a new best friend!
2. **What motivates us to give them Jesus?**
  - a. It's possible to share Jesus in a haughty, prideful way that doesn't care for them
  - b. See them as a soul headed for hell & then we'll reach out in compassion
3. **What kind of minister are you?**
  - a. Don't stop just b/c we're not perfect!
  - b. We're not offering them our perfect life, but the perfect life of Jesus
4. **Who are the members?**
  - a. We're trying to aid people from conversion, thru discipleship, right to glorification!
  - b. Are we offering our whole life to bring them the salvation that we so richly cherish?