

Many Voices | A Borderless Gospel

Effective

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

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Review: What issue(s) did you think about, and consider how God views them? Have you lamented how that issue has been treated in the broader church? How did that impact you?

Pray: Lord, we pray for persistence like Paul in having confidence in our faith so that we can share the hope we have in you. Amen.

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

Discussion:

1. Paul begins with a reference to mistreatment at Philippi, where he was imprisoned for a time. (See Acts 16:22 and following.) What kept Paul motivated to continue on to Thessalonica?

2. Paul talks about motive in verses 3 and 4. Why would Paul need to clarify his pure motive?

Can God's word be declared with impure motive?

3. In verses 5 to 7, Paul contrasts flattery, pretext, and praise with gentleness and caretaking. Can flattery and praise be effective in delivering God's word?

Why or why not?

What makes gentleness an effective approach?

4. How did you first hear God's word?

How did you come to know it was God's word to you?

5. How does God's word work in you – as Paul describes in verse 13?

Application: This week, consider how Jesus is manifested in your life – how do people learn something about Jesus from the way you act, words you say, things you do, how you act?

Pray: Lord, help us learn to be effective messengers of your good news and to show in words, actions, and demeanor that you are the word of God come to earth to save all who call on the name of Jesus. Amen.