



1ST THESSALONIANS 2

The Power of the Gospel

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. - 1 Th 2:13.

In this second chapter of 1st Thessalonians, Paul recounts his visit and establishment of the Church in Thessalonica. After having just been treated maliciously in Philippi, the missionaries were not deterred from continuing to boldly preach (v2) the Gospel that was welcomed and accepted not as the word of man, but rather the as word of God. (Vs 13) Despite being “Professional Missionaries” vs 9 shows us that Paul and his companions worked to support themselves that they would not be a burden on anyone. His conduct here is out of a motivation to be a true servant of the people. Interestingly enough the Gospel, in a nutshell, is service. Jesus tells us in Matthew 20:28 “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Not only can we serve people by Preaching the Gospel, but actually living it. It has been said that actions speak louder than words, and we clearly see that Pauls actions boldly backed his bold preaching. **Could his suffering in Philippi, relentless bold preaching, and heart of servanthood have been a deciding factor in why the Thessalonians accepted his preaching as the Word of God?**

Discussion Questions

1. It has been said, Preach the Gospel, and if necessary use words. How does Paul's conduct, service, and the way he lived his life while visiting the Thessalonians exemplify the Gospel? How did his actions back the words?
2. Paul exhorted the church to walk worthy of their calling. In context that meant to turn from the idol worship and open sinful life styles of their current culture and live differently in their community, embracing a standard of life pleasing to the Most High God. What does that mean for us in a “Christian” nation? Is there any difference between then and now?
3. Walking worthy and living different can often estrange us from our secular community. Just as vs 14 describes the suffering of the church in Thessalonica, how do we suffer for Christ today? Do we have it as bad? In a world with limited access to scripture and communication with the main church body, where did they draw their endurance from? How should we endure today?
4. ‘Ancient’ missionaries had to work to support their ministry for themselves but this also opened the doors to meet local people in business and embed themselves in the community they were trying to reach. How can you leverage your secular job,

school or community for the Gospel? How do your actions in that community affect your 'preaching'?