



LESSON TWO: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

OASIS Bible Study - September 22 & 23, 2026

If you are a Christ-follower, you are a _____!

1. Every believer has a _____.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.

⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

2. Every believer has a _____.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

3. Every believer is called to _____.

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

4. Every believer represents _____.

2 Corinthians 5:20

²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul helps us ask a different question: *What kind of people are we _____ while we do God's work?*

1 Thessalonians 2:1

¹ You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure.

1 Thessalonians 2:2

² You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there.

See Acts 16:11-40.

Acts 16:19

Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace.

1 Thessalonians 2:2-3

² You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition. ³ So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery.

The first mark of genuine spiritual leadership: _____.

Matthew 25:21

"Well done, my good and faithful servant."

We base success on results. God bases success on _____.

Acts 14:19-20

¹⁹ Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town.

Nelson Mandela

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

The second mark of genuine spiritual leadership: _____

_____.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

³ So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery.

⁴ For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. ⁵ Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! ⁶ As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

Based on verses 3-6, what accusations or allegations against Paul, Silas, and Timothy are implied in these verses?

Paul's Calls Two Witnesses in His Defense

1. The _____ in Thessalonica

Verse 3 - So you can see...

Verse 5 - Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know.

Verse 6 - ...we have never sought it (human praise) from you or anyone else.

2. _____

Verse 4 - For we speak as messengers approved by God...

Verse 4 - He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

Verse 5 - And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money!

Proverbs 16:2

People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives.

Galatians 1:8-10

⁸ Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. ⁹ I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

¹⁰ Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

Why can't we be Christ's servant if pleasing people is our goal?

John 12:42-43

⁴² Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. ⁴³ For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

We must be driven by God's _____, not man's _____.

Some questions to help us:

- *Am I more concerned about pleasing God or being liked?*
- *Do I love and serve others the same way if no one is looking?*
- *Am I seeking God's glory or trying to build my own reputation?*
- *Am I more concerned with looking spiritual than actually becoming holy?*
- *Is there an area where I have been compromising because I am afraid of what people will think?*

The third mark of genuine spiritual leadership: _____

_____.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

⁷ As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. ⁸ We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

In biblical thinking, love is a _____.

1 John 3:18-19

¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹ Our actions will show that we belong to the truth...

John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

The fourth mark of genuine spiritual leadership: _____

_____.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

⁹ Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you. ¹⁰ You yourselves are our witnesses — and so is God — that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. ¹¹ And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. ¹² We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

Acts 18:3

Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was.

APPLICATION: What is one area where God is calling you to serve Him faithfully this week? Write your answer in the space below:

- Maybe you need courage to stand for truth or to have a conversation.
- Maybe you need to repent of seeking approval or doing the right thing with impure motives.
- Maybe God has been prompting you to do an act of service, and you have been putting it off.