

What Does Love Share?**1 Thessalonians 2:8**

Today, I'm back after an 8-week sabbatical during which I did not preach to anyone but myself. That's the longest stretch in 24-years. **What was I doing?**

Family Focus God used Ashley & kids to "preach" the gospel to me. It was amazing & let me say thank you for the opportunity.

Marriage Focus Ashley & I reflected on God's overwhelming goodness to us over these last 17 years together. It was restful, quiet, intimate & joyful. Thank you for that!

Ministry Focus Throughout the sabbatical, I enjoyed spending time with mentors & ministry friends, each of whom spoke a word from God into my life. Thank You!

Inward Focus After Ashley & kids returned to NYC, I found a spot tucked away in the Shenandoah Valley of VA where I spent extended time in prayer, reflected on God's nature & enjoyed being a beloved child of God. It was a defining moment. Thank you!

Salem Church In January, I will start year number 7 as Pastor of Salem Church. We love New York, we love Staten Island, & we deeply love our Salem Church family.

"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." **1 Thessalonians 2:8**

I. Love Shares a Message

"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God..." **1 Thessalonians 2:8a**

"For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed – God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children." **1 Thessalonians 2:5-7**

"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God..." **1 Thessalonians 2:8a**

What is the Gospel of God?

- **The Bad News:** We are all sinners separated from God.
- **The Worst News:** We have no ability to take care of our sin problem.
- **The Good News:** Jesus lived a perfect life and died in our place.
- **The Best News:** Salvation is a free gift to be received from God.

II. Love Shares a Life

"...but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

1 Thessalonians 2:8b

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." **1 John 4:7**

There is no one who embodies these two things that love does more than our Savior Jesus Christ. Matthew tells us about his ministry...

"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people." **Matthew 4:23**

Did you see? He taught and healed from AMONG them! The Bible describes our God as one who not only shared his good news *with* us, but stepped out of heaven and lived *among* us. Jesus shared his message, and he shared his life with us.

If you have never experienced God's love, let me invite you to receive it as a free gift right now as we pray!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *1, 2 Thessalonians* – D.M. Martin (1995)
- *IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig Keener (1993)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A. T. Robertson (1933)
- *1 & 2 Thess, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon* – K. Larson (2000)
- *The Message of Thessalonians* – John Stott (1994)
- *The Good, the Bad, the Worst and the Best* – James Merritt (2018)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)