

1 Thessalonians 2:1- 8

A model Church

APPROVED BY GOD

SHARING THE GOSPEL IN SUFFERING THROUGH WORDS

- Paul commonly defended his Apostleship in Corinth, Philippi, Galatia, Thessalonika
- Paul did not come in vain / empty / hollow / empty handed, void of truth
- They had been mistreated in Philippi by roman officials Acts 16:19- 40
- Outrageous treatment / abuse with humiliation openly, suffering and shame
- Yet, Paul had boldness - speak freely, courageous strenuous expression in preaching
- Their proclamation was not in vain because of three reasons
 - Not from error - commitment to only Christ and Him crucified
 - No impurity - ambitious pride, greed, motives, popularity
 - No deceit - trickery or guile
- Approval by was of being entrusted with the gospel from God by calling
- Approval here is examination after testing - same words use for fit for public office
- A continual action not a just one occurrence - Apostles saw suffering as a test
- Please here means to serve a fellow citizen and public obedience, no happiness
- Flattery in verse 5 refers to selfish ends, winning hearts to exploit them
- The words were not truthfulness, frankness, plainness without pageantry/presentation
- Words were the way of life, oration & speech were everything in those days
- Skills in argument cannot outweigh divine revelation
- They saw testing as an opportunity and conflict as an examination
- Ministry continued in the midst of much contention

SHARING THE GOSPEL TOWARD BELIEVERS IN DEEDS

- Proved in verse 7 points to that they did not demand honor nor importance
- They were treated with gentleness along with power courageous speech
- As someone cares for their nursing children in a cherishing way
- This was to warm them, foster them, nourish as much as they could
- This was a common inscription to describe a parent's yearning or deep affection
- There were extremely long hours as Paul worked them shared himself
- Any temptation to quit was dismissed by Paul even though his body was giving way
- Christianity cannot be put in a peaceable package for a secular world
- For our world we need that strong speech in words to a fallen world
- For our world inside the church, we need gentleness, warmth, sharing affection