

Discussion Questions

Anchor Bible Church

6/29/2022

1Thessalonians 2:5-7

1 Thessalonians 2:5-7 (NASB95)

⁵For we never came with **flattering speech**, as you know, nor with a **pretext for greed**—God is witness—

⁶nor did we **seek glory** from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ *we might have asserted our authority*.

⁷But we proved to be **gentle** among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own

Navigate and choose as best suits your discussion time.

1. Chapter 2 takes a turn from describing the church at Thessalonica to describing Paul's ministry as the preacher-leader.

- What has happened 6-7 months after his departure to necessitate his clarification?
- How would you describe the dynamic going on in Thessalonica with the church & the context community? Growth & maturity of the believer, and an attempt to discredit message & messenger.
- What observations can we draw from this for our day? The issue behind the persecution is what? The devil hates truth! How relevant is that today?

2. It was indicated Paul is recalling to their minds "as you know."

- How important has Paul's past testimony proven to be months later and what can we learn for our own lives?
- In what (2) areas of a Paul's life have his opponents resorted in order to discredit him? Whose strategy is behind this? What he speaks & how he serves. Note 1-6 speaking, 7-11 serving.
- What instruction/helps does this provide for a congregation as it relates to their preacher-leader, and some of the struggles he may incur while carrying out his ministry? What can the Body do being aware of such a pattern if they see or hear of such rumblings?

3. Paul said he didn't come with 3 kinds of speech, *flattering speech, pretext for greed, glory from men.*

- What is the goal of flattering speech and its danger? Why would some practice flattery speech? Is there a way to spot it?
- The following Scriptures give us a brief look at what Scripture thinks of a flattering preacher. Look them up and summarize God's viewpoint. Job 32:21-22; Psalm 12:2-3; Pro. 26:28, 28:23, 29:5
- Have you seen a pretext of greed manifested? What are some possible warning

signs? Consider Rom. 16:18; 2 Cor. 2:17

- What did Paul do to NOT be perceived as a pretext of greed? Tentmaker
- How might we recognize a preacher-leader who is personal kingdom oriented?
- How would you advise someone who finds themselves in this type of church? Do you think it is possible to be in such an environment and not know it? Why or why not?

4. Paul had the “apostolic authority” to assert himself in his leadership, but...

- Rather than assert himself how would you describe his leadership? This is almost presented as an aside by Paul. But, how critical is his mind-set and relevant to the preacher-leader today? What does our culture think about being assertive? What character trait is behind Paul’s heart? Humility!
- Do any Scripture references come to mind as it relates to the preacher-leader in his leadership relationships? Possibles: 1Pe. 5:1-4; 2Cor. 1:24; 4:5, 4:7; 2Thess. 3:9 What do they indicate?

5. Paul mentions in verse 7 he was like a *mother*, and verse 11 like a *father*.

“Like a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children..”

- Describe Paul’s perspective with the Flock being derived from such metaphors as it relates to the preacher-leader.
- What are some ways this tender care can be manifested today?
- What are some ways you might suggest the preacher-leader can examine this area of his life?
- What observations come to your mind with such a picture?
- How can a preacher-leader be authoritative & yet gentle, tenderly caring at the same time?
- What challenges will the preacher-leader possibly face when confronting error, or sin from the perspective of others? How might it be challenging to confront sin or error and yet do so gently? Why might someone claim harshness when there has been gentleness? How does 2Tim. 2:24 help us in this discussion?
- What can we learn from Paul about how to do ministry?

Prayer Focus:

1. Those who bring us the Word of God would be focused on God’s kingdom, and His righteousness.
2. For the Scriptures to be authoritatively proclaimed in an environment of gentle and tender soul care.
3. For the gracious perseverance of the preacher-leader when maligned for the sake of truth.