

IV. CONDUCT YOURSELF IN A GODLY MANNER, IT IS EVIDENCE OF YOUR PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY (2:10 – 12)

The apostles worked hard while they were amongst the Thessalonians. They did not want to be a financial burden to them, or seem to be making money of them. This served to keep them blameless and righteous and holy amongst the Thessalonians. Like a father they worked hard, took care of their needs and set an example in their conduct while challenging the Thessalonians in how they should live, that is in a manner worthy of God!

It is interesting that the apostles' purpose for living in such a way amongst the Thessalonians was not for their own glory, but to point them to the kingdom and glory of God!

Qs 3. How can we share an offensive gospel in a loving way? "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Romans 10:15

Qs 4. Discuss ways in which we ought to live in order to better serve the gospel.

The 1st Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Study Two

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*Delhi Bible Fellowship
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Home Group Study Notes*

PROCLAIMING THE TRUE GOSPEL IN A GOD-HONOURING WAY 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1 – 12

In chapter 1, the apostles' focus was on the genuineness of the gospel they were proclaiming. In chapter 2 the focus shifts to their own authenticity as apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus, speaking about false teachers, said in Matt 7:20, "*By their fruit you will recognize them.*" People can say all they like, but until we see them in action we rarely believe their words. Jesus goes on to say, "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*" These words have great bearing for all who profess to be Christian.

Paul, Silas and Timothy take the opportunity in this section to prove to the Thessalonians that they were genuine apostles ("sent ones") of Christ. They do this by speaking of:

- Their suffering for sake of the gospel (2:1-3)
- Their preaching of a God-centered gospel despite opposition (2:4-6)
- Their tender care for the Thessalonians (2:7-8)
- The example they set in their conduct before the Thessalonians (2:9-12)

In this study we will follow their example and discuss how our lives ought to look in order that we show ourselves to be true Christians. We are not talking about "doing" in order to be saved, but rather "doing" because you are saved. We are talking about the "fruit" of salvation!

V. PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL BOLDLY, IT IS EVIDENCE OF YOUR TRUST IN GOD (2:2)

The apostles had faced severe hardship in Philippi for proclaiming Jesus, but they boldly entered Thessalonica to continue on this mission. Even here they faced opposition but that did not stop them. These words are meant to encourage the Thessalonians to stand firm and be bold *in God*. The apostles themselves drew their confidence

from their relationship with God. Their trust in God evidenced itself in their bold proclamation of the gospel.

VI. PROCLAIM A GOD-CENTERED GOSPEL, IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD (2:3-6)

The thrust of this section is in verse 4 where the apostles make it clear that they were preaching to please God and not people. If they were preaching to please people, they might have tweaked the gospel a little, resulting in an impure, erroneous and deceitful message. They would have used flattery and so received some personal honour from it. But they were concerned about pleasing God and not people and so they preached a gospel that caused people to be greatly displeased with them!

Qs 1. *Who opposes the gospel? Why do they oppose it? (Eph 6:10-12)*

Qs 2. *Why do people get offended by the gospel? (1 Cor 1:18, 23)*

VII. CARE FOR THOSE YOU MINISTER TO IT IS AN EVIDENCE OF THE YOUR SENSITIVITY TO GOD'S OWN HEART (2:7-8)

Not pleasing people doesn't mean that we become cold, mechanical and unloving toward people. In fact the apostles were just the opposite. They proclaimed a hard hitting gospel message, but with the gentleness of a mother. Not only did they proclaim the gospel, they also gave themselves to the Thessalonians. They would have lived humble lives of service among them.