



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

## 1 Thessalonians (Part-2) (Chapter 2)

**Paul's model ministry (1-9):** Why could Paul say with confidence that his ministry was 'not in vain'? What was the source of Paul's boldness in ministry? What made his ministry a fruitful ministry? What are some commendable aspects of Paul's ministry? What are many church leaders seeking today? Is it okay to flee when faced with opposition or danger? Where did Paul flee to?

**Paul's blameless testimony & exhortation(10-12):** What could witnesses testify about Paul's life? How was Paul a fatherly/motherly figure to many? What was Paul's message? How is your walk with the Lord?

**Paul's ceaseless thanks (13):** What was Paul thankful for? Does the Word of God always work for everyone?

**Paul's suffering (14-18):** What was Paul's complaint against Jews? Should we be surprised by oppositions and challenges in ministry? Who hindered Paul's ministry? Does God hinder our ministry?

**Paul's complement (19-20):** What is Paul's great complement to Thessalonica believers?

*Personal reflection:* Paul was a model minister of God ... How do we compare to him?

From chapter 1

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# Paul's ministry in Thessalonica and other places

... Preached | Planted | Prayed | Checked



Growth of our assemblies can be seen as following the same pattern.

4-fold aspect  
of effective  
Gospel work  
... what is  
our role? (5)

Evangelist Preaches the Word

Sinners hears and receives the  
Word

Conviction for sins brought by the  
Holy Spirit

Assurance of sins forgiven

# The Transformed Life (9-10)

Turned to God from Idols  
(**past**, work of faith)

Serving the living God  
(**present**, labor of love)

Waiting for His return  
(**future**, patience of hope)





# I Thessalonians 2

Paul's model ministry (1-9)

Paul's testimony & exhortation (10-12)

Paul's ceaseless thanks (13)

Paul's suffering (14-18)

Paul's complement (19-20)

# Paul's 'model' ministry (1-9)

Why could Paul say with confidence that his ministry was not in vain?

What was the source of Paul's boldness? What made his ministry a fruitful ministry?

What are some commendable aspects of Paul's ministry? What are many church leaders seeking today?  
Is it okay to flee from ministry when faced with opposition or danger? Where did Paul flee to?

# Paul's ministry in Thessalonica

- Paul faced persecution
- Paul could spend only a few weeks in ministry
- Paul had to flee in the night

Was this a failed mission trip?



# Paul's ministry (1-2)

For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention (1-2)

**Fruitful ministry**, despite brief time and physical & mental persecution

- Persecution or opposition to gospel work does not mean 'failed ministry'
- Fleeing does not mean cowardice or failure
- Paul persisted, and preached the "same gospel of God" with passion and boldness despite many dangers (Acts 16:12,22-24, Philippi; Acts 17:1-5, Thessalonica)
- Paul suffered for the sake of gospel throughout his ministry (Acts 9:16)

**Fruit**: Sinners saved, church formed, maturing believers

**Paul's ministry was NOT in vain**



# Paul's 'model' ministry, 3-9

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<sup>3</sup> For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

<sup>4</sup> But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

<sup>5</sup> For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

<sup>6</sup> Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

<sup>8</sup> So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

<sup>9</sup> For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

# Paul's model ministry (3-9)

- Commissioned by God to speak (4)
- No deceit, uncleanness or guile (3)
- Not to please men but to glorify God (4,6)
- No flattery, or covetousness (5) (II Corinthians 2:17)
- With gentleness like a loving nursing mother (7)
- Not only offered gospel, but also offered/sacrificed self (8)
- Worked hard ... Labored day & night (9)
- Worked to support gospel work, and trusted in God for all his needs (9) (Acts 20:32-33)

## Paul's model ministry

undiluted message | selfless | loving | His glory

**What is our motive & message?**

**How do we respond when faced with opposition?**

# Secret of Paul's success

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Chosen/Equipped by God  
to deliver the gospel of God  
for the glory of God

Blameless Character

**Paul,  
the evangelist**


Genuine Love for Lost

Willing to suffer & die for Christ



In ministry:  
be sure of calling &  
enabling

According to the  
glorious gospel of the  
blessed God, which was  
**committed** to my trust.  
And I thank Christ Jesus  
our Lord, who hath  
**enabled** me, for that he  
counted me faithful,  
putting me into the  
ministry;  
(1 Timothy 1:11-12)



In ministry:  
always please God,  
not people.

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

(Galatians 1:10, NIV)

# Paul's Testimony & Exhortation (10-12)

What could witnesses testify about Paul's life? How was he a fatherly/motherly figure to many? What was Paul's message? How is your walk with the Lord?



# Paul's blameless testimony & exhortation to walk worthy (10-12)

<sup>10</sup> Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:<sup>11</sup> As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

<sup>12</sup> That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

# Paul's blameless testimony & exhortation to walk worthy <sup>(10-12)</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: <sup>11</sup> As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, <sup>12</sup> That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Church could testify of Paul's divine gospel ministry and godly character ... a life that was Holy, Just, Blameless (10)

As a nursing mother (7)

As a father, exhorted, comforted, and challenged (11)

message: to walk worthy of God and His heavenly calling

Paul was effective as he practiced what he preached. No wonder, he could ask others to be like him (I Corinthians 11:1).

**How is your testimony & walk?**

# Paul's ceaseless thanks! (13)

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

## Why?

Because they received the **Word of God** as the truth  
(not as the word of men)

Word of God Works in those who believe and apply!

# Paul's suffering (14-18)

What was Paul's complaint against Jews? Should we be surprised by oppositions and challenges in ministry? Who hindered Paul's ministry? Does God hinder our ministry?

# On suffering (14-18)

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<sup>14</sup> For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

<sup>15</sup> Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

<sup>16</sup> Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

<sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

<sup>18</sup> Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

# Paul's complaint against the Jews (14-17)

- Killed Jesus
- Killed prophets
- Persecuted evangelists
- Forbidding preaching of gospel to gentiles

Conversion  
followed by  
suffering (14-17)

Like Lord Jesus Christ, disciples, Paul, prophets,  
Believers in Thessalonica suffered

Paul forbidden to speak to gentiles lest they be saved

For their rejection of Christ and persecution of saints,  
God's wrath is upon them (16)

# Paul's ministry hindered: God or Satan? (18)

Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us (18)

Paul's return to Thessalonica is hindered by Satan.

**Source of Hinderance?** ... Satan (continued hostility of Jews)

**Hinderance by God possible** (Acts 16:6 ...were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia) **Diversion by God possible** (Acts 8: Philip diverted from Samaria to Eunuch)

**How do we know who is hindering our progress or expansion of ministry?**



# Paul's ministry hindered: God or Satan? (18)

Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us (18)

**Satan can hinder ... but God is still in control.**

Blessing of Hinderance: Paul's visit to Thessalonica hindered (2:9). Had Paul's visit not been hindered, this letter may not have been written. So hinderance proves to be a blessing.

Paul returned later during his final visit to Jerusalem (Acts 20)

# Paul's complement

(19-20)

<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? <sup>20</sup> For ye are our glory and joy.

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? (19)

Souls won by Paul in Thessalonica

**Ye are our glory and Joy** (20)

In the future ~ In the presence of the Lord (19)

Crown of Rejoicing awarded to “soul winners”



## Five crowns ... rewards for believers

**Crown of Rejoicing** ... for soul winners  
(I Thessalonians 2:19)

**Imperishable Crown** ... for Completing  
the race (I Corinthians 9:24-27)

**Crown of Righteousness** ... those who  
long for second coming (II Timothy 4:8)

**Crown of glory** ... for church  
leaders/shepards (I Peter 5:4)

**Crown of life** ... those who endured  
trials & persecutions (Revelation (2:10))

# Personal Reflection

Paul was a model minister of  
God ... How do we compare  
to him?





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