

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD
1 THESSALONIANS – AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY
Homework for Oct 27, 2021

BY WAY OF REVIEW

Chapter 1 of Thessalonians focuses on the church's reception of the gospel and their reputation "in every place" (v. 8). State how Scripture describes these below:

- > Their reception of the gospel message (vv 3-7):
- > Their reputation "in every place" (vv 8-10):

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

2 Read the second chapter of 1 Thessalonians every day to prepare for your study.

3 Read Philippians 16:11-40, then reread Acts 17:1-15 and 1 Thessalonians 2:14-15 for context in understanding our passage. In 1 Thessalonians 2:2, Paul refers to suffering and being spitefully treated at Philippi. Later, he was driven from Thessalonica and later Berea because of the Jews violent reaction to the preaching of the gospel of Christ. But even after Paul had been sent away, the Thessalonian church still came under attack (1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14). The attack on the church appeared to center on maligning Paul's motives and attacking his integrity so as to destroy the church. Give a brief synopsis of these events.

4 Chapter Overview:

- > Carefully reread verses 1-8. What do you observe to be the summary of the first eight verses?
- > Carefully reread verses 9-12. What do you observe to be the summary of the final four verses?
- > Read verses 1-12 again. Then state in a few words what you see is the summary of this section.

5 Paul defends the conduct of his preaching ministry by contrasting what he did not do with what he did do in vv 1-8. List these below.

- > vv 1-2
- > vv 3-4
- > vv 5-6
- > vv 7-8

6 Using a concordance or Blue Letter Bible online, look up five of the words or phrases above and write down the primary meaning for each along with any other information that has helped you.

7 Paul's proclamation of the gospel can be summed up by the phrase from verse 4, "...*So we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*" How does that statement define Paul's ministry, his life, and his relationships? How much of your life is defined by that same attitude? What areas do you need to work on so that you may say, "So I speak (or act), not as pleasing men, but God, who examines my heart."

8 In verses 9-12, Paul defends the sacrificial manner of life of the ministry leaders while living among the Thessalonians. Read the verses carefully then write down the characteristics of their servant leadership.

< v 9

< v 10

< vv 11-12

9 Define these terms:

< holy (Strong's #3743)

< just (Strong's #1346)

< blameless (Strong's #274)

10 Spiritual leadership requires that these strong verbs are active in the discipleship process. Define them:

< exhorted (Strong's #3870)

< encouraged (Strong's #3888)

< charged (Strong's #3143)

11 Finally the goal of Paul's ministry was that the Thessalonian believers would "walk in a manner worthy of God." See Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:27; and Colossians 1:9-12 for a detailed understanding of this term. Why is this required for all believers? And how is this a motivation for you to give more of your energy toward living a godly life? What specific steps will you take this week to make a change?