

1 Thessalonians

Lesson 3: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Spiritual leadership is a duty that is not to be taken lightly. The Apostle Paul knew that effective spiritual leadership is a combination of character and action. Even though Paul did not spend much time with the Thessalonian believers, he had a close relationship with them. Speaking of how he cared for the Thessalonians, he used metaphors that conveyed the most intimate relationships—a mother and a father. Let's dive in and see what we can learn about spiritual leadership and the relationship between a shepherd and the sheep.

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

1. Read Acts 16:11-40. What was the treatment that Paul and Silas received while in Philippi before arriving at Thessalonica?

2. How did this treatment impact Paul and Silas?

Application: The gospel continued to spread in the face of tribulation and opposition. What does this tell you about the gospel? In what ways does this encourage you? Why?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

3. In verse 3, Paul gives three false motives that are used in preaching the gospel. What are they?

Application: Impurity in verse 3 would imply spiritual leaders being motivated by financial gain, fame, or any other impure, self-satisfying motives. What evidences would alert you that spiritual leaders have impure motives? Why is this important?

4. In verse 4, what was Paul's true motive for preaching the gospel?

Application: Pastors are entrusted with the gospel and called to preach it as one who pleases God. What are the dangers for pastors who try and please men? How can you encourage your pastor so that he does not fall into this temptation?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 5-12**

5. In verses 5 and 6, what are the three things Paul denies doing in their ministry in Thessalonica?

Application: Paul says he did not use flattering speech in verse 5. What are some ways you see the sin of flattery used in the church today? How can this be avoided?

6. In verse 7, what metaphor does Paul use? What does this tell you about his relationship with the Thessalonians?

7. Read Acts 18:3. What was Paul's occupation? In light of that, what does verse 9 tell you about Paul's heart?

8. In verse 11, what metaphor does Paul use? What was his goal for the Thessalonians?

Application: Paul speaks of acting like a nursing mother and a father toward the Thessalonians. How did the Thessalonians respond to Paul's care? What can you learn from these Thessalonian believers?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16**

9. What was Paul thankful for in verse 13?

10. In what ways did the word prove to be effective in the Thessalonian's lives?

11. Compare verse 14 with 1:6. Why would mentioning the Judean churches bring encouragement to the Thessalonians?

12. Who does Paul hold responsible for killing Jesus? What is the result for their actions?

13. What were the Jews trying to stop Paul from doing? Why would this make Paul upset?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20**

14. In verse 17, what happened the last time Paul saw the Thessalonians?

15. Who did Paul say was responsible for hindering them from seeing the Thessalonians? What does this tell you about his plan?

16. Does Paul think he is going to see the Thessalonians again? How do you know this?

Application: In what ways have you seen the Word of God work in your life?

Application: What one verse in chapter 2 impacted you the most? Why?