|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**Week No. 9 – Chapter 2:1-12  |  |

1. Read (See "Short Guide for Bible Study" handout)
2. Recognize and Research (See "Short Guide for Bible Study" handout)
3. Relate and Reflect
	1. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul gives a defense of his ministry. Why would he do this?
		1. Should we expect opposition today? How should opposition to the gospel be handled?
	2. Paul's ministry was the opposite of false teachers of his day. What does scripture say about false teachers? What are the warning signs of a false teacher?
	3. In verse 8, Paul boldly states that he was pleased to give the Thessalonians his life. What evidence is there in this letter that supports this claim?
		1. Paul proclaims his affection for these early believers. What should drive these affections? What does scripture say about believer's affections/love for one another?
	4. Paul mentions his example of how he labored among them. Where else in this letter does he admonish working vs. idleness?
		1. Does verses 2:9 and 3:8 mean that Paul never accepted support or was against pastoral support?
	5. Paul reveals the purpose of his ministry in 2:12. What was his motivation to live out a faithful ministry?
		1. How should Paul's purpose of ministry shape a biblical philosophy of ministry?
		2. What does a worthy walk look like? Where else in scripture is the Christian walk described?
4. Respond –– what personal applications can we derive from these first twelve verses of 1 Thessalonians chapter two?
	1. Develop a teaching outline based on the main point that is derived from the structure of the text. Your outline should bridge the gap from, "Then and There", to the, "Here and Now." Develop this outline as something you would teach in Sunday school or a Bible study.

Warren Wiersbe provides the following helpful advice on forming the proposition:

1. "It should be biblical, a timeless truth that is worth preaching about.
2. It should be important and relevant to the needs of the congregation.
3. It should be definite and clear, uncluttered by abstract language or literary embellishments. [Simplify your proposition.]
4. It should be accurate and honest and not promise more than the preacher can produce. You don't lay a foundation for a skyscraper and then build a chicken coop on it.
5. It should be interesting so that the listener is encouraged to want to listen to the development of the theme in the sermon.
6. It should usually be stated in the present tense, what God does for us today and not what he did for Moses centuries ago. 'Jesus helped Peter when he was sinking' is a valid statement; but for a sermon thesis, it would better be stated, 'In the storms of your life, your Savior is present to help you.'"[[1]](#footnote-1)
1. Warren Wiersbe and David Wiersbe, *The Elements of Preaching* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1986), 26-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)