

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Thess 2:1-4.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined>. Commands are double-underlined>. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1 For you yourselves know, brethren,
 that our coming to you was not in vain,
2 but
 after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi,
 as you know,
 we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God
 amid much opposition.
3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;
4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,
 so we speak,
 not as pleasing men,
 but God
 who examines our hearts.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10. What is the encouraging news Paul is reinforcing in V.8 regarding the local church at Thessalonica?

2. Re-read V. 1 of ch. 2. In light of question 1, why did Paul say that “our coming to you was not in vain”?

3. Re-read 2:2. Why should the Thessalonians need to be reminded of what happened in Philippi?

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4. Read Acts 16:19. Who was with Paul when he was dragged into the marketplace?
5. Read Acts 16:19-24, 37 along with V2 of our passage. What kind of “mistreatment” did Paul and Silas experience?
6. Read Acts 17:5-7. Why did Paul use the term “much opposition” at the end of verse 2 of our passage?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Thess 2:1-4 again.

7. Read Romans 1:1 and Romans 15:16 along with V2 of our passage. Why does Paul use the term “gospel of God” in our passage as well as in Romans?
8. As believers, we must be able to understand and articulate WHAT the gospel is. What bullet point answers would you use to explain the gospel to others?

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9. In V3 of our passage, how would you define exhortation?
10. Paul refers to the negative first in defining what his exhortation does NOT come from? What are those 3 negatives?
11. Why is Paul using these terms to affirm the truthfulness of his ministry?
12. Read 2 Corinthians 4:2. In 2 Corinthians, Paul renounces a similar list of what he calls “the things hidden”. Why is it necessary for him to make this contrast in various letters to churches?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Thess 2:1-4 again.

13. In V3, what is the opposite point Paul is affirming when he uses the word error? What about impurity?
14. Also, in V3, what was he saying about his manner of ministry in using the word “deceptive?”

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15. In V4, what does Paul say about his credentials and his authority?

16. Why does he need to point out this approval?

17. Why do you think Paul closes verse four the way he does?

18. Who is the ultimate one we are accountable to?

19. Summarize the meaning of this passage in one sentence.

20. How should this passage affect your life in the coming week?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would seek to serve and share the gospel like Paul, as explained in these verses.