

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Thessalonians 2:5-8

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 2:5-8.

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.

5 For we never came with flattering speech,  
as you know,

nor with a pretext for greed  
— God is witness —

6 nor did we seek glory from men,  
either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

7 But we proved to be gentle among you,  
as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

8 Having so fond an affection for you,  
we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives,  
because you had become very dear to us.

1. What is the connection between v. 4 and 5? What does the “for” at the beginning of v. 5 indicate?

2. What coming (“we never came”) is Paul referring to in v. 5? How has he described that event already in this chapter?

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3. How does he say they did not come in the first phrase of v. 5? Would this have been obvious to them?
4. What is “flattering speech”? What kind of flattering speech have you heard in preaching?
5. Why would flattering speech be so dangerous?
6. Where else have we seen “as you know” in this chapter? Why do you think Paul keeps emphasizing this?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Thess 2:5-8 again.

7. What is the second description of how they did not come in v. 5?

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8. What does a “pretext for greed” mean?
9. Why would a pretext for greed be dangerous in a preacher?
10. How would they know whether or not Paul was greedy? Who does Paul appeal to as the ultimate witness?
11. What is the 3<sup>rd</sup> description of how they did not come in v. 6?
12. What does it mean to “seek glory from men”?
13. How could Paul and the others have used apostolic authority to seek glory from men?
14. Summarize how Paul and the others did not come to the Thessalonians as described in v. 5-6.

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Thess 2:5-8 again.

15. What contrast is being drawn with the word “but” in v. 7?

16. How does Paul positively describe his ministry to the Thessalonians in v. 7?

17. How is this the opposite of what he described in vv. 5-6?

18. What comparison does Paul draw describing his gentleness toward them?

19. How does Paul describe his relationship with them in v. 8?

20. Why does Paul have such an affection for them?

21. What is the main idea of this section?

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22. What would this kind of ministry look like in our church?

23. How can you apply this passage in your relationships in the body this week?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we, as a church, would exemplify this kind of love and purity in ministry.