

1 Thessalonians 1:5-2:12 – believer, disciple, discipler

v.5 Gospel come not just in word- but it did come in word

- what is the Gospel? John 3:16; Romans 3:10- none righteous, 3:23 all have sinned and fallen short; Romans 6:23 wages of sin; Romans 10:9- if you confess

- power- what is that power ? signs and wonders? No the power to transform men's lives. *Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." and (John 13:35 NKJV) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

- in the Holy Spirit- it is He Who draws and convinces men of the gospel

- in much assurance- How do we know this is true ? The Holy Spirit and the Word of God will make it real in our hearts. *1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

- you know what manner of men we were- the power of our witness and holy living

disciple

v.6-7 they naturally became witnesses

- affliction with joy ? Recall Jason being drug out of his home and arrested- Only in Jesus- there will be afflictions, a price to pay

- they became followers and then became examples- growth, maturity

v.8 Sounded forth- trumpeted, loudly proclaimed

v.9 Turned from idols to God- God doesn't just save us from but saves us to.

- *Psalm 135:15-18 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.*

- living God and true God

v.10 Wait for His Son Who delivers us from wrath to come-this is not wrath of not being saved, they have already been delivered from that but the wrath that is coming.

CHAPTER 2

v.1 Our preaching has not proved vain- it has had results

- Sometimes we feel that if we don't see results, we have failed but (*Isa 55:11 NKJV*) *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

v.2 In Acts 16 just before Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica, they were persecuted in Phillipi. They had been specifically told by God to go to Macedonia in a vision. When they arrived in Phillipi their ministry had such an impact that they ended up being thrown in jail. An earthquake opens the prison doors as they are singing hymns in chains, the jailer and his whole house are saved, the officials plead with them to leave and they make their way to Thessalonica. Paul recalls this as background for his motivation to minister.

- bold in our God- not brash in your face boldness but that boldness that comes from knowing the truth of God's word.

- spoke the gospel of God- as in Corinth, Paul is determined to know nothing except the good news, God loves us and provided a way through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we could be forgiven of our sin and come into fellowship with Him.

- in much conflict- when we preach the Word , there will be conflict

v.3 Deceit- false doctrine that has ulterior motives- faith doctrine = make me rich- signs and wonders= see how anointed I am, spiritual pride- shepherding= give me power

- uncleanness- any impure motive, usually power

- guile- trick someone into things- user friendly, don't tell people our purpose, so they won't be offended and might come back

v.4 Approved by God- combination of two words meaning tried and tested, and agreed with and bonded to- Paul is not coming with just words but a track record of a life that does what he says

- entrusted with gospel- realize what we have been entrusted with- those striving for leadership be especially careful- this is way we have very few guest speakers, I am very cautious of what is taught and who teaches it.

Matthew 25- parable of the talents

- don't be a men pleaser but a God pleaser-

v.5 Flatter (different thana complement) is always designed to return something to the person doing the flattering. It is in fact a cloak to conceal the true motives.

v.6 don't seek glory from men- remember glory from men is very fickle, opinion polls, etc. Somebody is generally upset with me about something, I don't seek this and it bothers me tremendously but its a fact. You can't please everybody nor should you try, but do what God has called you to do.

Discipler

v.7 gentle as a nursing mother

- Did you ever see an agitated upset nursing mother ? It doesn't work, the very fact of nursing calms both the baby and mother.

- We have special area for nursing mothers, it is important for the proper envoirment to be there

- nursing does certain developmental things- provides nutrition, provides proper development of mouth and jaw muscles, guards against infections both at present and in the future.

- special bonding - example of myself and Eileen

- always enough milk- they more they take, the more you make- God supplies abundantly what is needed

- when hunger or distress is signaled there is a "let down" experience where milk surges

v.8 Gave not just the Word but their lives- we give ourselves to those we love

v.9 *(1 Cor 9:14 NKJV) Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. AND (1 Tim 5:18 NKJV) For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."* - Many times Paul worked, made tents, if the ministry is a job to you so you can make a living, you're in the wrong field. This also refers to his preaching being something that edifies not puts further burdens on someone.

v.10 Our live is a witness

v.11 We have seen how Paul is like a mother, now how he is like a father

- exhorted- instructed in each circumstance, encouraged

- comforted- came alongside to minister

- charged- not just knowledge but application

- my job, our job as a discipler is to not water down the Word - *(Heb 4:12-13) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

v.12 worthy- a walk that is worth something in the kingdom, not to be more righteous but to be used. God wants to use you !