

We looked at a faithful church in 1Th 1, but to have one, need faithful shepherds in 1Th 2!

**1Th 2:2** - think when read through Acts we sometimes lose sight of courage it took to be hated and mistreated in one town because of the gospel and then go to the next town and faithfully preach again, not letting that past experience bind you. Paul highlights here how they had to be faithful and not think about the consequences. What prompts a man to live **Act 20:22-24a**? The delight of obeying Christ in **24b**! It's like the record of Christ in **Psa 40:6-10** (**Heb 10** tells us this speaks of Christ). It's His delight to do the will of the Father!, See church's prayer after affliction in **Act 4:23-31**

**v. 3** – We were not like those described in **2Co 2:17** which “corrupt” the word of God. Means to “peddle”. Paul said they weren't simply trying to get them to buy into their opinion. They didn't have an ulterior motive. We talked about proper motivations for the congregation in the last message, but the preachers have to have that as well. Yes, we must preach truth, but we must do so with the right motivation—love! (**1Co 13:1-2**)

**v. 4** - "allowed" is a terrible word choice. It means to test and is the word "prove" in **5:21**. Point is they've been tested and found faithful to be entrusted with the gospel. That's clear in the way they keep on even in face of opposition. Not even a little gun-shy! They weren't hirelings as in **Joh 10:11-15**. They viewed their calling to be from God and so were serving Him in this task, not men-pleasers. We're all called to live that way as in **Eph 6:5-9**. Both the servant and the master are instructed to do their part as serving God.

**v. 5** – They didn't just tell the Thessalonians what they wanted to hear. They told them what they NEEDED to hear! They weren't simply there to scratch some spiritual itch (**2Ti 4:1-5**) motivated by greed so they could fleece the flock. They gave them the truth, even if hurt. Faithful are the wounds of a friend!

**v. 6**- Burdensome how? (**1Co 9:1-12**) Sometimes you have to suffer in that which ought not to be for the benefit of the ones who are not doing what they should. You desire to teach them and so through example you endure that they might learn selfless servitude.

**2:7** - One thing I've heard from nursing mothers is that they feel like a human pacifier. And those little blessings using them for sustenance and comfort never look up and say, "Thanks mom!" Why? They don't have the maturity to do so! And so she's gentle with them, understanding their maturity level, and cares for them so they will learn to be caring. (We see Paul working towards this goal in **v. 8-12**—he's not bragging on himself)

**v. 8** – These shepherds gave them more than just the word of God faithfully—they gave themselves! See example in **Act 20:18-20, 31-35**. Sounds like **v. 9-10** in our text!

**v. 11** – I like this word “exhorted” as he speaks again using family terms, behaving as a father to his children. This word means “to call near”, i.e. close relationships that encouraged men to come not push them away. If there's an offense, let it be the truth of the gospel, not an unlovingness or brashness on our part! Paul said “I made myself servant of all” because of my goal to “by all means save some.” (**1Co 9:19-22**) Regarding “as a father”, Calvin had this to say: “What he means is this—that he was concerned in regard to them, just as a father is wont to be as to his sons, and that he had exercised a truly paternal care in instructing and admonishing them. And, unquestionably, no one will ever be a good pastor, unless he shews himself to be a father to the Church that is committed to him. Nor does he merely declare himself to be such to the entire body, but even to the individual members. For it is not enough that a pastor in the pulpit teach all in common, if

he does not add also particular instruction, according as necessity requires, or occasion offers. Hence Paul himself, in Acts 20:26, declares himself to be free from the blood of all men, because he did not cease to admonish all publicly, and also individually in private in their own houses. For instruction given in common is sometimes of little service, and some cannot be corrected or cured without particular medicine." Paul said I exhorted, I called you to be near me!

**v. 12** – Why were Paul and his companions behaving this way? Because they were selflessly seeking the good of the Thessalonians. What was best for Paul, Silas, and Timothy wasn't the issue as they served. They sincerely wanted what was best for the souls they ministered to! Their joy was to see them walking with the Lord. That's the heart of a spiritual father. (**3Jo 4**)