



The Word At Work 1 Thessalonians 2:9-16

Review

The Proclaiming of the Gospel

The Demonstration of the Gospel

Imparting your “very life” to others--Adoption, serving here, moving people.

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- My conversations this week: “I’m not qualified.” “I’m not sure I’m a Christian.” “I couldn’t share the gospel--my living is terrible right now.” “I’m bad...I REALLY need Jesus.”
 - What does...and what does not...disqualify you in gospel ministry?
 - **Gospel driven leaders produce gospel transformed believers.**

1 Thessalonians 2:9-12 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

- Paul never wanted to be seen as a burden on the church. He worked. Hard.
- Work is Worship.
- Again, with the witnessing--the Thessalonians, and God, witnessed Paul’s character.
- Last week he said, “God is our witness.”

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

- **Paul is constantly asking God, “Is there ANYTHING that would disqualify me as I share the gospel?!”**
- He had been entrusted with something EXTREMELY valuable. The gospel.
- How does he describe his conduct:
 - Holy towards God in obedience.
 - Righteous toward people in community.
 - Blameless--not perfect, quick to repent, etc. Back to Ps. 139...”Search me, God.” Open book with God and men.
- **Paul’s character stood up against scrutiny.**
- Then Paul likens his care to that of a father (mother last week):
- Exhorted. Gave strong correction.
- Encouraged. Gave strong support, hope.
- Charged. Gave marching orders.
- “To walk in a manner worthy of God.”
 - **Does YOUR character stand up against scrutiny?** The effectiveness of the gospel going forward hangs in the balance!

Your good character is a door opener to a successful witness of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

- Word of God, not men. (the gospel)
- Settle this today.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- In your morning devotions, in this sermon, in community group, **you are hearing from God!**
- The fruit we see in each other, the change we see--is the Word of God working in our lives!
- **There is no neutral ground in this battle!**
 - “I want God...but not yet, now now” Then where you are sitting you are opposed to God. You are not in a safe zone.

- What we need in the church...in this church...is less religion, less worrying about others, and more repentance. Repentance, crying out to God!

1 Thessalonians 2:14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

- Imitators...in works, and in suffering the same things others are.
- All the churches are suffering. Thessalonians, you're not alone.

1 Thessalonians 2:15-16 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind 16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

- God is measuring the sins of persecution against His church.
- Wrath is coming.

Summary

- Paul's character, his manner of living mattered! He could stand on his character?
- Can you? Would your life lend credibility to the gospel?
- For Paul, it was never about his glory.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- Paul ALWAYS wanted people to be drawn to the power of God!

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