

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6 'Paul's Courage and Appeal' #1

- Chapter 1: Paul commends Thessalonians for their Gospel reception & growth
- Chapter 2: Paul speaks of his & his fellow servants' ministry among them
- Their ministry was with power & confirmation that they were God's servants
- Such ministry is given by God and can only be accomplished in his power

I. Paul's Courage: Boldness & Endurance through Trials (2:1, 2)

- Paul's visit to the Thessalonians was not in **vain** – it was not empty or hollow
- When the missionaries visited – their message was not void of power or effect
- They suffered much in Philippi from the Jews but they still came (Acts 16)
- They weren't afraid but **'boldly declared to them the Gospel of Christ'** (2)
- When men have boldness with God they are bold with men and God blesses
- Although Paul, Silas & Timothy suffered greatly, they stayed faithful
- Whenever the Gospel is truly preached opposition will increase against it
- God's servants need to stand firm in the Gospel armor against persecution

II. Paul's Appeal: Sincerity and Transparency (2:3-6)

- Paul's appeal addresses each accusation openly & transparently, they did not...
- Serve from **error / deceit**: their message was from God, the source of all truth
- **uncleanness/ impurity**: their message was worthy of the Holy God who gave it
- there was **no attempt to deceive/ beguile**: no deceit was used to capture people
- contrary to the philosophers of the day, the Gospel was all that Paul preached
- vs. 4. **just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel**
- God set Paul & his fellow missionaries apart and continued to approve them.
- **To be entrusted with the Gospel**: sacred trust not to be violated or avoided.
- *Message is violated* when the messenger's life doesn't bear witness to that truth
- The *message is avoided* when the messenger changes/alters the Gospel message
- He says **we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts**
- They did not aim to displease men, but they deliberately sought to please God
- So they, v.5 "**never came with words of flattery**" they would not tickle ears
- **Nor with a pretext for greed...** The gospel was not a means to their own end
- They sought no glory from man: they cared not what man thought of them, nor claim their own rights: **we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.** 6