



Steadfast in Persecution
Studies in 1 Thessalonians

The Labor of Love
1 Thessalonians 2
Lesson 2

Introduction

Paul's motives for coming to Thessalonica apparently had come under attack, from pagan Gentiles and Jews clinging to their traditional faith, after he left. Paul points out that they knew that he had preached his message to them in the midst of fierce opposition, his message was truth and his motives were pure. Paul and his companions had demonstrated the loving care for those in Thessalonica using such illustrations as; a nursing mother cherishing her children, or as a father charging or imploring his own children.

Paul noted that their genuine embracing of the Word of God resulted in a transforming affect that was noticed by the other churches in Judea. Their shining example of staying strong in the midst of persecution, was noted as a labor of genuine love as they imitated the pattern that has been set before them by Paul and his companions.

Treasures of the Heart

... We were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Thessalonians 2 :1-12

1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. 5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness — God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing 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 dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?



1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, 15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, 16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.



1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. 18 Therefore we wanted to come to you — even I, Paul, time and again — but Satan hindered us. 19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.



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Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn - What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Eagerly looking for Christ's return is an evidence of salvation, a motivation for soul winning and an encouragement for holy living. Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends with a reference to the return of Christ, and that truth is applied to daily living. See if you can find it and **state these truths in your own words.**

State the reference to Christ's return.

How is it applied to daily living?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

It is better to be approved by God and suffer
than to be applauded by men and prosper.

Warren Wiersbe

