

# 1 Thessalonians

## Lesson #6, Chapter 2:1-12

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. How do the contents of Chapter 1 tie in to 2:1-12?
2. In verses 1, 2, 5, 9, 11 Paul tells the Thessalonians *you know* or *you recall*. What things does he want them to remember?
3. Paul had been driven from Thessalonica by the Jews violent reaction to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ (see Acts 17:5-10 and 1 Thessalonians 2:15). Yet even with Paul gone the Thessalonian church still came under attack (see 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14). The attack also included an attempt to undermine and discredit Paul's character, motives, and ministry. What hints to this opposition against Paul do you find in verses 1-12?
4. In verse 1 Paul says his coming to them was not in vain. How did the Thessalonians know that? See Chapter 1 for clues.
5. In verse 2 Paul refers to suffering and mistreatment while in Philippi. See Acts 16:11-40 and give a quick synopsis of the events.
6. *When* did Paul share the gospel with the Thessalonians (verse 2)? *How* or in what manner was the gospel shared (verse 2)?

7. The boldness Paul speaks about in verse 2 is always with reference to proclaiming the gospel. What do you learn about this bold proclaiming from Acts 9:27-28; 18:26; 19:8; Rom. 15:15; 2 Cor. 3:12; Eph. 6:19-20?
  
8. What “boldness” characterizes you when you talk with others about Jesus Christ? What things do you learn from Paul that might help you more boldly share the gospel?
  
9. In verse 3 Paul defines his exhortation by 3 things it was *not*. What do you learn about Paul’s exhortation?
  
10. In verse 4 *approved* has the idea of being approved or proven by testing. Paul and his coworkers were tested and approved by God and then entrusted with the gospel. See Acts 26:16-18; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Col. 1:23-24; Titus 1:3. What do you learn about being entrusted with the gospel?
  
11. In verses 4-6 Paul explains how he speaks the gospel of God. What do you learn?
  
12. Paul’s proclamation of the gospel can be summed up by the phrase from verse 4, *so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God, who examines our hearts*. How does that statement define Paul’s ministry, his life, and his relationships?
  
13. How much of your life is defined by that same attitude found in Paul? What areas do you need to work on so that you may say, “So I speak (or act), not as pleasing men, but God, who examines my heart.”

14. After contrasting how he *didn't* speak or act while among the Thessalonians, Paul then explains in verse 7 how they *did* act. What do you learn?
  
15. How did Paul and his coworkers live out the gentleness and tenderness of a nursing mother according to verses 8-9?
  
16. Paul says he and his coworkers behaved “devoutly, uprightly, and blamelessly” toward the Thessalonians (verse 10). Define each of those terms.
  - a. Define *devoutly* [ESV, NIV *holy* (Strong's #3743)].
  
  - b. Define *uprightly* [ESV, NIV *righteous*; NKJV *justly* (Strong's #1346)].
  
  - c. Define *blamelessly* (Strong's #274).
  
17. How did Paul speak to the Thessalonians (verse 11; both the NIV and ESV place these qualities in verse 12)?
  - a. Define *exhorting* [NIV *encouraging* (Strong's #3870)].
  
  - b. Define *encouraging* [NKJV, NIV *comforted* (Strong's #3888)].

- c. Define *imploring* [ESV, NKJV *charged*; NIV *urged* (Strong's #3143)].
18. Verse 12 gives the purpose for that excellent behavior and speech. What is it?
19. What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord? See Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:9-12.
20. Why is a worthy walk required of believers (verse 12)?
21. How is that a motivation for you to live a more godly life

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— SAMUEL RUTHERFORD