

I Thessalonians 2:1-12

REVIEW...

- **1ST - HOW THE GOSPEL CAME TO THESSALONICA... vs. 5**
 - The Gospel did NOT come in Word only – but in POWER and the HOLY SPIRIT!
 - The Gospel was given in MUCH assurance (*confidence*)
 - The Gospel was given along with a good example!
- **2ND - THE RESULTS OF THE GOSPEL IN THESSALONICA... vs. 6**
 - They became followers of Paul / Silas / Timothy – AND followers of the Lord...
 - They received the Word in MUCH affliction – BUT they had JOY!
- **3RD - THE RESULTS OF THE GOSPEL OUTSIDE THESSALONICA... vs. 7-10**
 - They became examples in EVERY place – of FAITH / HOSPITALITY / HOLINESS
 - And an example of PATIENCE because they waited for Jesus to return!

THE PREACHING OF PAUL... (5 THINGS)

- **1ST - HOW PAUL PREACHED... vs.1-2 (2 POINTS)**
 - 1st – Paul did not preach in VAIN... vs. 1
 - The believers in Thessalonica knew (*edio*) that Paul had not come to them in vain...
 - Vain – *kenos* used 18x in NT – carries the idea of being fruitless / empty...
 - There was no question that there was FRUIT to the work Paul did...
 - Anyone who wanted to know – could see that there was now a church there!
 - We also do not want to serve the Lord in vain...
 - Every one of us has received a GIFT from God – **I Peter 4:10**...
 - We all have been given talents – gifts that come from God...
 - Those gifts were not given in vain – but so that we could minister one another!
 - Not sure what your gift is – there is only one way to find out - step out and try!
 - If God has given us a desire to worship – then pick up a guitar...
 - If God has given us a desire to teach – then pick up a Bible!
 - We will never be sure of what our purpose is – until we step out to find out!
 - 2nd – Paul preached BOLDLY... vs. 2
 - The believers knew (*edio*) how Paul and company had been treated in Philippi...
 - How they had suffered and been severely mistreated just before arriving in Thessalonica...
 - **Acts 16:16-40** – we read about how Paul and Silas were wrongly imprisoned...
 - Paul had cast a demon (*python*) out of a slave girl and got arrested for his efforts...
 - There in prison he and Silas worshiped the Lord – and God send an earthquake...
 - The jailer ran is to see if they had escaped – and instead gave his life to the Lord!
 - When they were released the next day – the officials pleaded with them to leave the city!
 - When they arrived in Thessalonica – there was still much conflict...
 - **Acts 17:5** – the Jews who did not believe stirred up a riot against Paul and company...
 - Yet in spite of all the conflict – Paul was BOLD in his preaching of the Gospel...
 - BOLD - used 9x in NT – always used in correlation to the preaching of Paul!
 - It did NOT matter what people did to Paul – they were not going to silence the Gospel!
 - Sharing the Gospel will always bring about conflict (*sword*) – **Matthew 10:34**...
 - The world hates Jesus because He convicts the world of sin and righteousness – **John 3:19**
 - If it were not for Jesus men could do whatever they wanted without consequence...
 - But that is all the more reason to BOLDLY share the Gospel – tell people about Him...

- They may not WANT to hear the truth – but all the more they NEED to know Jesus!

● 2ND – WHAT HIS PREACHING WAS NOT... vs. 3 /5-6 (6 POINTS)

- o 1st – Not in ERROR... vs. 3
 - The exhortation (*encouragement / Gospel*) Paul brought them was NOT in error...
 - Error – *plane* used 10x in NT - carries the idea of the wisdom of the WORLD (*planet*)...
 - Paul did NOT come and try and to give them the ideas of men (*psychology*)!
 - Many people today run to the wrong counsel for help – the wisdom of this world...
 - On the surface – there can even appear to be some WISDOM in psychology...
 - But at its core it denies that God is the solution – or even that He exists!
 - And will even try to discredit the sufficiency of God to overcome problems!
 - We do not want someone who gives us their opinion – no guarantee they are right...
 - We want someone who is going to point us to Jesus – He is ALWAYS right!
 - I John 4:1 - “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God.”
- o 2nd – Not in UNCLEanness... vs. 3
 - Uncleaness – **Matthew 23:27** – also used to describe the preaching of the Pharisees...
 - On the outside everything might looks good – but inside they were UNCLEAN...
 - Because they were not looking to glorify God – they were looking for the GLORY of men...
 - Paul DID NOT preach in uncleaness - his motives were PURE before the Lord!
- o 3rd – Not in DECEIT... vs. 3
 - Deceit – used 12x in NT – carries the picture of fishing with bait...
 - I am going to try and LURE you in – in an effort to get from you what I WANT...
 - Paul DID NOT preach with deceit – he wanted NOTHING from those he gave the Gospel to!
- o 4th – Not with FLATTERING words... vs. 5
 - Flattering – only here NT – Paul did not spare the sinners from the truth (*flattery*)...
 - Because flattery is shallow – and ultimately does not help anyone - **Proverbs 26:28**
 - Many pastors today have forsaken teaching of the TRUTH of the Bible...
 - They are afraid to talk about harder subjects - sin / consequences / hell...
 - They do not want to offend people – so they only talk about happy subjects (*flattery*)...
 - The church is not a theatre or a show / it is a place to hear the TRUTH...
 - The power of salvation is in the Word of God – Pastors need to TEACH the Word!
 - II Timothy 4:3 - “A time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will... look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.”
- o 5th – Not with a desire for MONEY... vs. 5
 - Paul did not use his preaching as a cloak (*hide*) of covetousness (*greed*)...
 - In other words - Paul was not trying to get rich off of preaching the Gospel!
 - The number 1 message of false teachers is give us money - Apollo Quiboloy / Iglesia ni Cristo
 - False teachers do not look to bless / help others - teach them about Jesus...
 - They do not look to bring glory to God - they only look to please themselves!
 - They will try to win you over to their cause - so they can take advantage of you!
 - **Philippians 3:17-19** - “They are enemies of the Christ. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite... all they think about is this life...”
- o 6th – Not for the GLORY of men... vs. 6
 - Even though they MIGHT have made demands as APOSTLES of Jesus Christ...
 - They had the POWER (*dynamai*) to place a BURDEN (*baros*) on the believers...
 - Paul was not after the GLORY of men – either from Thessalonica or anywhere else!
 - In contrast the Pharisees loved to hear their own name – love to be recognized...
 - They loved to be seen by men - they loved the praises of men!
 - **John 12:43** – “For they loved [agape] the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

- Leaders who love the praises of men – end up NOT being a servant of Christ!
- **Galatians 1:10** - “If I were trying to please people, I would not be Christ’s servant.”
- A godly leader does not seek the praises of men – the acceptance of men...
- If a leader is seeking to please men – he is listening to men and not to God...
- He becomes a leader who is tossed about by the whims of men – no direction...
- He becomes the blind leading the blind – both fall into the ditch - **Matthew 15:4**
- **3RD – WHY PAUL PREACHED... vs. 4 / 7-8 (3 POINTS)**
 - 1st – He was approved by God... vs. 4
 - Paul had been approved (*perfect/passive/indicative*) by God...
 - Approved - the word could also be interpreted examined / tested / recognized...
 - In other words because Paul had PROVEN to be faithful to God...
 - Therefore - he was entrusted (*trusted with*) with the Gospel of God – and so he SPOKE!
 - A lot of people step up and say they want to be used by God...
 - Only to be handed a broom / or asked to wash the dishes...
 - And they walk away – because they think they are better than menial work...
 - Yet I have noted two traits on the people God uses...
 - They have humility – realizing it is not about them – but all about Jesus...
 - And they do not give up – they persevere – do not quit hanging on to Jesus!
 - **Zechariah 4:10** – “Do not despise these small beginnings...”
 - 2nd – To please God... vs. 4
 - Paul did not speak to please men – but to PLEASE God...
 - Because it is God who TESTS (*same word as approved*) our hearts...
 - **I Corinthians 3:13** – “Each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test [same word] each one’s work, of what sort it is.”
 - Paul understood that he would ultimately answer to God for his actions...
 - So he wanted to make sure that he was living / preaching in a way that pleased God!
 - A good friend once told me he ONLY cared about what his wife and God thoughts about him...
 - Because he had to live with his wife – and he knew he would one day answer to God!
 - 3rd – Because of his love for the people... vs. 7-9
 - His Love for the people can be seen in three ways...
 - 1 - How Paul treated the people...
 - He was GENTLE among them – like a nursing *mother* cares (*warms*) for her children...
 - The picture is intimate and powerful – Paul genuinely LOVED them...
 - With just as much passion and intensity as a mother caring for a nursing child!
 - 2 - What Paul wanted to give to the people...
 - He had such affectionate longing (*only here NT*) for the people...
 - He was not only pleased to give them the Gospel message...
 - But also his LIFE because they were so LOVED (*agapetos – PPP*)!
 - How did Paul have such a powerful – self sacrificial – AGAPE love for others...
 - Because of the LOVE he had received from Jesus Christ!
 - **I John 4:10-11** – “This is love [agape], not that we loved God, but that He loved us... if God so loved us, we also ought to love [agape] one another.”
 - 3 - What Paul refused to take from the people...
 - He called for them to remember how he had worked day and night while with them...
 - Labor (*work*) and toil (*hard labor*) so they would not be a burden to anyone!
 - Not that they could not have been paid for their work in the ministry...
 - Those who minister to the spiritual needs of the church - pastoral ministry...
 - As much as possible - provided for practically by the church - **I Corinthians 9:11**

- o **I Timothy 5:18 / Matthew 10:10** - "The laborer is worthy of his wages."
 - o If a pastor has to work to support himself practically - little time for the church...
 - o It is a blessing to the people to provide for the pastor to free him up to minister!
- But like a father to a child he ONLY wanted to give to them...
 - o Paul was willing to SPEND all he had for the church...
 - o He would have given them his last peso / his last ounce of strength...
 - o **II Corinthians 12:14** - "I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children."
- **4TH - WHO WERE THE WITNESSES TO HIS PREACHING... vs.10 (2 POINTS)**
 - o 1st - The believers were witnesses... vs. 10
 - Paul was not telling the believers anything they did not already know...
 - They had seen - HOW / WHAT / and WHY Paul preached the Gospel to them...
 - In fact Paul uses the term - as you KNOW - 4 times just in this passage (vs. 1 / 2 / 5 / 11) ...
 - The word KNOW could also be interpreted - SEE - they SAW everything Paul did!
 - Whether we know it or not - people are watching us - following our example...
 - If we are conforming to the world - chances are they will 'stumble' with us...
 - The opposite is also true - if we stand up for Jesus - it will give boldness to others...
 - When you are willing to go to Bible studies - you will find others follow...
 - When you stand up for Jesus around family / friends - it gives other boldness too!
 - o 2nd - God was a witness... vs. 5 / 10
 - People were not the ONLY ones watching - so was God (vs. 5 / 10)...
 - When Steven was stoned - he saw Jesus standing on the right hand of the Father - Acts 7:56
 - Jesus does not stand at the right hand - He sits - Colossian 3:1 / Hebrews 8:1
 - Here and here ONLY do we see Jesus standing in Heaven...
 - Jesus stood because He was proud of His son - Steve had a good witness (*martyr*)!
 - I can hardly believe it - but one day when I go home I will see Jesus...
 - And hear Him say the words - Welcome good and faithful servant - Matthew 25:21
 - Not because of what I did for Jesus - but because of what Jesus did for me!
- **5TH - THE DESCRIPTION OF HIS PREACHING... vs.10-12 (2 POINTS)**
 - o 1st - The example Paul gave... vs. 10
 - Paul uses 3 adjectives to describe the EXAMPLE they were witnesses to...
 - Devout - only here NT - which speaks of the *desire* to be DEDICATED to God...
 - Just - which speaks of *practically* being OBEDIENT to God...
 - Blameless - 2x in NT - which speaks of *following* through and being FAITHFUL to God...
 - Because Paul was DEDICATED to the Lord - and OBEDIENT to His commands...
 - No one could make any accusations - blame - because he was FAITHFUL to the Lord!
 - o 2nd - The words Paul shared... vs. 11
 - Paul uses 3 verbs to describe the WORDS they were witnesses to...
 - Exhorted - to come along side - often meaning to instruct or admonish...
 - Comforted - to encourage or console (*used concerning Mary & Martha*) - John 11:19
 - Charged - to be witness of - he spoke honestly to them about what he saw in them!
 - Just as a FATHER would do to his own children!
 - Paul saw himself as their FATHER - and he taught them like they were his kids!
 - Fathers are to teach their children - teach them about Jesus - Ephesians 6:4
 - It is the responsibility of the Dad to EXHORT / COMFORT / and CHARGE their kids...
 - Too often fathers forget that they are to be the spiritual leaders of their homes...

- We must take the time to read the Bible with our children / pray with them...
 - If we do not teach our kids to have a relationship with Jesus - who will!
- o 3rd – The desire Paul had... vs. 12
- Paul did all of THIS – HOW / WHAT / WHY / WHO – so THAT...
 - They would walk WORTHY of God – who calls them into His Kingdom and Glory!
 - How can we walk WORTHY of God – through the teaching of the Word of God!
 - **Colossians 2:9-10** – “That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy [same word] of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”
 - That was the desire of Paul – the purpose of the preaching of Paul...
 - That people would know about the Love of Jesus – and would learn to walk worthy of Jesus...
 - Till the days when God calls them to come home – into His Kingdom and His Glory!