



1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Lesson 2

Chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians introduced us to Paul the evangelist. This chapter introduces us to Paul the pastor, for it explains how the great apostle cared for the new believers in the churches that he founded. In this section, Paul shares many of the methods he did not use, and in contrast, shares his care for them as a mother and a father care for their own. May you be stirred to care as Paul cared.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *God/Father, Jesus, gospel, glory, exhorted/charged, believe, any words that refer to suffering, and any words that refer to labor*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used five times in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. Choose one of the key words provided in question #2 and make a list of what you learn about that word as it is used in this homework.

5. Share one thing this chapter reveals about:

God

The believers in Thessalonica

Paul (and those with him)

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-2

1. Using 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2, describe Paul's conduct.

2. Paul began this chapter stating that the believers in Thessalonica personally knew that Paul's coming to their city was *not in vain*. What criteria do you use to determine if something was done *in vain* or not?

3. Scan 1 Thessalonians 2:1-10 and list some of the proofs that Paul's coming to them was *not in vain*.

4. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 expresses Paul's concern that his labor might have been in vain. What was his concern?
 - a. In what ways does Satan tempt a new believer?

5. Paul mentioned that they *suffered* and were *spitefully treated* in Philippi. The account of that visit was recorded for us in Acts 16:11-34. Paul and others, in response to a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading with Paul to come, sailed to Philippi. On the Sabbath day, they went to the river and were able to share the gospel with some of the women. A demon-possessed slave-girl followed them. What happened *when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone*? see verses 19-24
 - a. Notice that in spite of being beaten and imprisoned, Paul and Silas continued on their journey to Thessalonica. 1 Thessalonians records that they were *bold to speak the gospel in much conflict*. According to Acts 17:4-9, what was that *conflict*?

 - b. Share your thoughts as you consider the challenge to share *the gospel*, even in the face of rejection and physical harm.

6. What can we learn from 1 Corinthians 16:9 about *open doors*?
 - a. In your own words, describe an *open door* as it refers to a door God has opened.
 - b. What are some misperceptions about *open doors*?

1 THESSALONIANS 2:3-6

1. Using 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6, describe Paul's conduct.
2. What three things did Paul mention about God that would have motivated him to behave uprightly?
 - a. Why is it important to remind ourselves of these things when we minister to others?
3. What might be some ways of speaking to *please men*?
 - a. According to Acts 17:3, what did Paul preach?
4. Paul stated in verse 6 that they *might have made demands as apostles of Christ*. What kinds of demands *might* ministers of the gospel make?
 - a. What is the church's responsibility to those who minister the gospel?
CHALLENGE: use Scripture to support your answer.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8

1. Using 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, describe Paul's conduct.

2. Paul shared in verses 3-6 many things that he was not. Verse 7 begins with a striking contrast. Rather than being a minister who took Paul was a minister who gave. What example did he use to describe his *gentleness*?

- a. What are some ways that a *nursing mother cherishes her own children*?

3. Define the words:

gentle

cherish

4. Verse 8 uses the phrase *affectionately longing for you*. Define the words:

affectionately

longing

5. Although Paul was careful to *impart the gospel* to them, what did he also *impart* to them?

- a. This can be expressed in many ways, often depending on the needs and number of people. What do you look for as expressions of true care?

- b. According to verse 8, why did Paul and the others *impart their lives* to the believers in Thessalonica?

- 1.) What do you think endears someone to the person serving them?

1 THESSALONIANS 2:9-11

1. Using 1 Thessalonians 2:9-11, describe Paul's conduct.

2. Why did Paul *labor and toil night and day*?
 - a. Paul gave his reasoning in 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9. What was it?

 - b. What example can be set by not requiring support?

 - c. When do you think a person should be paid for serving in ministry?

3. Define these words from verse 10:

devoutly

justly

blamelessly

- a. Why are these behaviors important to you?
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4. Paul used another analogy to describe his behavior in verse 11. What was it?
 - a. How should a father *exhort, comfort, and charge* his own children?

1 THESSALONIANS 2:12

1. Using 1 Thessalonians 2:12, describe Paul's goal.
 - a. Look back at some of the words that Paul used to describe his behavior. In what ways do these behaviors prove Paul's goal?

2. God has *called* every believer to *His own kingdom and glory*. What does that mean to you?

3. Meditate on the phrase *walk worthy*. What do the following verses teach us about our *walk*?
Galatians 5:16

Ephesians 5:2

Ephesians 5:8

Philippians 1:27

Colossians 1:10

Colossians 2:6

a. Using the verses above, summarize a *worthy walk*

REVIEW:

1. What are some of Paul's behaviors that you admire?

2. How does our goal in relationships affect our behavior?

3. In what ways have you been challenged to be a godly example to others?

*but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
-1 Peter 1:15*

Observation Worksheet

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.