



BIBLE READING

1 Thessaloninas 2: 1 - 12



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Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica

2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ² We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³ For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.



⁴ On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶ We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷ Instead, we were like young children among you.



Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.



¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.





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DISTINCTIVES OF TRUE MINISTRY

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12

Speaker: Auke Rienstra



TRUE MINISTRY IS FRUITFUL BUT NOT WITHOUT CONFLICT

- Paul's ministry in Thessalonica was not in vain (vs 1 > 1:5, 8-9)
- But also not without conflict (vs 2 > 1:6b > Acts 16-17)

When you preach the Gospel there will be fruit *and* conflict



BUT PERSEVERANCE SHOWS THAT:

Verse 3:

- The message is true
- The motives are right
- The method is authentic



TRUE MINISTRY IS AUTHENTIC:

- It is possible to preach the right message with the wrong motives >
Phill. 1:4-9



TRUE MINISTRY IS AUTHENTIC:

Paul came:

- **To please God, not men (vs 4)**
- **Not with flattery (vs 5)**
- **Not with deceit (vs 3)**
- **Not to seek honor of men for his own glory (vs 6)**
- **Not to get rich at their expense (vs 9)**



TRUE MINISTRY IS NOT LIKE A PROFESSION:

But like being a:

- Faithful steward (vs 4 > 2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- Nursing mother (vs 7-8)
- Respectable father (vs 11-12a)

The goal is spiritual maturity (vs 12b)



SO...

True ministry is:

- Fruitful but not without conflict
- Authentic
- Like a faithful steward, nursing mother and respectable father

The Goal?: spiritual maturity



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