

A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians – Chapter 2

- Verse 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.
 - How hard did Paul and his companions work for these folks?
 - Does God expect us as Christians to sometimes stretch ourselves?
 - Sometimes beyond our comfort zone?
 - Is God's main concern that we be happy or that we save others?

1 Thessalonians – Chapter 2

- Verse 10: You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;
 - Does God see our conduct?
 - Does this comfort you or make you uncomfortable?
 - What difference does it make if Paul and the others were righteous towards the audience?
 - Does it matter what our conduct is towards those we are sharing the Gospel with?
 - Why?

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- Verse 11: as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children,
- Verse 12: that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
 - What is exhortation? (ref. vs.11)
 - Comfort? (ref. vs.11)
 - If you believe in once saved, always saved, why would one have to walk in a manner worthy of God?
 - If God has called you into His kingdom, how does that make you feel?
 - How much glory does God have?
 - If God has allowed you to possibly share in His glory, how amazing is this?

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- Verse 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.

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- What is Paul thankful to God for?
- Why does Paul say they received his word (and Paul is a man) not as the word of men but as the word of God?
- Does God's word work in believers?
 - How?

1 Thessalonians – Chapter 2

- Verse 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,
 - How did the Thessalonians come to “model” or “imitate” the churches in Judea?
 - How did those churches suffer?

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- Verse 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,
 - The Jews he mentions did what?
 - Who might Paul be talking about?

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- Verse 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.
 - How does God feel about those who prevent His gospel from being taught?
 - Does God “keep score” of our sins?
 - What do you think Paul means when he says, “wrath has come upon them at last!”?

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- Verse 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.
 - How was Paul torn away from them?
 - Were they in Paul's thoughts even when he wasn't there physically?
 - What does this tell you about Paul?
 - Why do you think Paul wanted to see them face to face?

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- Verse 18: Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.
 - How much did Paul want to see them?
 - Who stopped Paul?
 - Can satan manipulate things to make our work more difficult?

1 Thessalonians – Chapter 2

- Verse 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?
 - Hope
 - Joy
 - Crown of rejoicing
- What do these things have to do with the brethren at Thessalonica?
- What does Paul mean when he says “Is it not you?”?

1 Thessalonians – Chapter 2

- Verse 20: For you are our glory and joy.
 - How are these folks Paul's glory and joy?

Conclusion: Paul recalls how he and the others conducted themselves , their motives, their message, and their unselfish concerns for the souls in Thessalonica.