

PAUL THE PREACHER
(1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

I. Paul's preaching (1-4).

- A. Paul and Silas had been treated shamefully while in Philippi.
 - 1. They had been jailed for Paul's casting a demon out a young lady who was bringing in money for her owners.
 - 2. Before being imprisoned, the city magistrates had these two men beaten with many stripes.
- B. After this, Paul and Silas made their way to Thessalonica.
- C. Paul makes mention of the fact that their coming and preaching to them was not in vain.
 - 1. Their efforts were not empty or useless.
 - 2. We mentioned in the first sermon from this book that their efforts met with good success, especially with the chief women and devout Greeks.
- D. As a side note, this must have been very encouraging to these two evangelists.
 - 1. They went from having been terribly mistreated to having great success preaching the gospel.
 - 2. No doubt they could have become discouraged if their efforts had been in vain.
- E. Rather than being discouraged they gave great effort in their preaching.
- F. The reason for the great effort is that it was in God.
 - 1. There was boldness on their part because of the power of God.
 - 2. When one is on the side of right, and God is always right, there should be great courage.
 - 3. This is exactly what spurred on Paul and Silas in their preaching.
- G. It is said by Paul that their preaching was with much contention.
 - 1. This word means strife or struggle.
 - 2. Andrew Connally said this is an athletic phrase used to show the zeal needed to accomplish his work.
 - 3. It was with great effort that Paul did his preaching.
- H. When he preached, he did not deceive the people, teach them immoral things or preach bitterly or hatefully towards them.
 - 1. Paul was not a false teacher or an immoral person.
 - 2. He was not one who preached harshly to his audience.
- I. Instead, Paul preached having in mind the commission given him by God to preach to the Gentiles.
 - 1. Paul did not preach for men or for himself.
 - 2. Paul did not preach to garner praise from men.
 - 3. It was always in Paul's mind that God had entrusted him with the gospel, so it was for God's approval that he preached.
- J. The reason Paul preached for God is because God is the One to whom Paul would answer for his preaching.
 - 1. Paul knew one day he would stand before God and give account of his preaching and life.

2. Therefore, the only one Paul sought to please was God.
- K. This is the way our teaching and preaching should be.
 1. We aren't going to please people all the time, but we had always better be pleasing to God.
 2. This ought to be first and foremost in our lives.

II. **Paul's pattern (5-9).**

- A. How did Paul go about his preaching?
 1. Everyone has a style of preaching or teaching.
 2. What was Paul's style?
- B. Paul did not use flattering words.
 1. Paul was not insincere in his preaching to gain people's hearts.
 2. He was truthful and honest in his preaching.
- C. Paul did not preach for money.
 1. This is what is seen in verse nine.
 2. Paul worked at his trade of tent making while in Thessalonica.
 3. Paul did not want to burden them so he worked consistently so as not to do so.
- D. To both of these Paul could call God as his witness.
 1. This indicated God knew how Paul preached to them.
 2. It was in no way for his own benefit.
- E. Paul did not preach for the glory and adulation of men.
 1. I have heard some preachers talk and they did so about themselves more than about God.
 2. Not the apostle Paul.
- F. Rather, Paul was gentle with them.
 1. Paul was not harsh or critical of them but worked patiently with them.
 2. He compared himself to a mother with her children.
 3. Children need patience and kindness and these Thessalonians were children in the faith.
- G. Paul was so concerned about their souls he would have given his life for them.
 1. As br. Taylor wrote, this is deep and boundless love.
 2. This was Paul's attitude toward his brethren.
 3. How do we feel about the brethren that surround us?
- H. The word "dear" indicates again the affection of a parent for a child.
 1. Those upon whom Paul bestowed so much labor to bring them to Christ, were felt to be his children.
 2. Much as Paul called Timothy his son in the faith, Paul viewed these brethren as his children.
- I. Paul was so concerned about them he was willing to endure great labor and travail.
 1. Travail means wearisome labor.
 2. Paul worked tirelessly on their behalf.

III. **Paul's purpose for preaching (10-12).**

- A. Why did Paul preach in the manner he did?

- B. The reason is in verse 12 - Paul wanted them to be able to walk worthy of the gospel.
- C. This is the reason for the way he lived his life and preached the way he did.
 - 1. This is the reason for being holy in life, blameless in life and living justly with others.
 - 2. This is why Paul exhorted and comforted others while working so hard to not be burdensome.
- D. This is truly the purpose of preaching to people - to help them live in a manner that is worthy of the gospel.
- E. Everything Paul did was to allow these people the opportunity and knowledge to please God.
- F. May this always be the focal point of all that we do as a congregation and as Christians.