

TITLE: THE GOSPEL MOTIVE

TEXT: 1 THESS 2

INTRO: In ch. 1 we saw proper attitudes & actions in **receiving** the gospel. Now we see the necessary elements in **delivering** the gospel. And these characteristics/attitudes apply in public *and* private teaching.

I. THE GOSPEL DELIVERED (v. 1-12):

- A. In persecution (v. 1-2)
- (v. 1) Our work was *not* in vain (though it could've easily been, based on the persecution we rec'd).
 - (v. 2) You know what happened to us in Philippi, but we still spoke boldly to you afterwards. And look at the results! What if we'd let what happened at Phillip discourage us? AND btw, we rec'd contention (strife, conflict) in Thessalonica too, which is why we had to leave early. But the results were well worth it!
- B. In the right motive (v. 3-6)
- (v. 3) Our exhortation to you wasn't from deceit (error), or uncleanness (impure motives), or in guile (trickery).
 - (v. 4) We speak the gospel because it's been entrusted to us! We have no choice (woe is me if I do no preach - **1 Cor 9:16**)! So our motive is not to please any men (even you Thessalonians), but God (**Gal 1:10**- "*For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*"). Choose who you will serve!
 - (v. 5) We never used flattering speech, nor a cloak (pretense) of greed (we had no hidden motive of greed or personal gain). We didn't preach in order to receive money! Most preachers today actually give up good salaries in order to preach!
 - (v. 6) Nor did we seek glory from (source) men or even you (v. 4-only from God), even though being able to be authoritative as Christ's apostles. We could have exercised this authority (required things of you), but didn't (**1 Cor 9:13-15**).
- C. In love (v. 7-8)
- (v. 7) Rather, we were gentle, as a nurse (lit. 'nourisher') cherishes (tenderly cares for) her children. He's speaking of a mother. Nobody else cares for her children like a mother. Paul, Silas, & Timothy had this type of love & concern for them. This is how we feel about those with whom we study. We love their souls and want them to be saved. We fight for them, not with them! If you just want to be "right," then you need to stop and rethink your motives!
 - (v. 8) "*And longing for you in this way, we were willing to have given to (shared w/) you not only the gospel of God, but even our own souls, because you've become dear (beloved) unto us.*" Those we baptize become like our own children to us.
- D. In labor (v. 9-10)
- (v. 9) You remember our labor & travail (hard labor); night & day...not to be chargeable (not to put a burden on you) – it seems P,S,&T, when not preaching & studying, worked to support themselves. They didn't want to be a burden to these new Christians. This is true love & dedication, since Paul himself says he had the right to money (**1 Cor 9:14** – "*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*").
 - (v. 10) Our behavior was holy, righteous, and blameless. You and God are our witnesses! Why is Paul almost defending himself to them, considering how close he feels to them (notice that he didn't need to begin the letter with his typical claim of apostleship)? This may be a contrast to others among the Thessalonians who were dishonest (**2 Thess 2:2** – don't "be troubled neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter **as from us**").
- E. In exhortation (v. 11-12)
- (v. 11) We **exhorted** (exhort, instruct, comfort, admonish, beg, entreat). The meaning in this context is probably that they entreated them (a milder form of "command"). And we **comforted** (encourage, console; probably encourage or persuade, based on the context – v. 12). And charged you (to walk worthy – v. 12), like a father with his children. A father may need to be forceful at times (using discipline), but his main approach is always love! "You're like my own children!"
 - (v. 12) We entreated you, persuaded you, and charged you (v. 11) to walk (live) worthy of God. We *can* actually be worthy of God and His kingdom?! Absolutely! How? **Col 1:10** – "*that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.***" We need to do these things, and we need to encourage others to do them.

II. THE GOSPEL RECEIVED (v. 13-16):

- A. As the word of God (v. 13)
- P,S,&T were so thankful to God that the Thessalonians had accepted their words as from Him (as it was), not from men.
- In order for this to happen today, our words *must actually be* from God (Bible), and not our own opinions.
 - Yet many still will not accept the Word as from God. They'd rather receive it as from men. That way, if they don't like it, they can claim that it's just an opinion, and they can go to another "man" and hear something else!
- B. While enduring persecution (v. 14-16)
- (v. 14) You became imitators of the congregations in Judea. How? Because you suffered at the hands of your own people! They would not (could not) have been able to do this w/out v. 13 (if they'd rec'd the gospel as from men)!
 - (v. 15-16) Things the Jews had done (and were doing): They killed Jesus & their own prophets, & persecuted the apostles.

III. THE GOSPEL MOTIVE (v. 17-20):

- A. (v. 17-18) We were forced to leave, though we didn't want to. In our hearts we never left you! Satan can't affect that!
- B. (v. 19-20) You all being in the presence of Christ at His coming (i.e., faithful til death), is our hope, joy, and crown of rejoicing.

CONCLUSION: In this chapter Paul is straightforward about the way he presented the gospel to them, but he is also very warm & loving about his feelings for them. He wants them to succeed as Christians, never to fall away, so he can be with them forever in Heaven. This ought to always be our attitude in **receiving and delivering** the gospel.