

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF
THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 2:1-12

MEDIA REFERENCE SM 228 ~ APRIL , 1996

TITLE:

" HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE "
A CALL TO WATCH & WAIT

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

The Return of Jesus Christ for the church is known as the Rapture. It is not a doctrine to be questioned, it is a doctrine to be believed - and what you believe about it makes a great difference in how you live.

- There are those who believe that Jesus could come back at any moment
- but there are those who believe that it will be awhile yet
- then there are those who do not believe He's coming back at all

each of us will live our lives based upon what we think concerning
His coming

It is recorded that Napoleon had such a powerful influence and relationship with his troops that when they heard that he was riding towards their particular battle - that all began to fight better and harder and with more courage!

**THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST
PRODUCE A WORKING HOPE WITHIN US**

- Chapter 1 - Reveals Paul the Evangelist
- Chapter 2 - Shows us Paul the Pastor

In the Context 1-12,
2 VERSES LEAP OUT AT US AS BEING VERY PERSONAL AND VERY LOVING...

Paul Addresses them in the likeness of children - his children (earthlywise)

It's true for us, and of us today if we have children it is because God has desired to loan them to us

the responsibility is great (too great at times)

*But for their growth, safety and well-being
we all desire to instruct our kids in what is the best way to go!
after all - God has made you the parent for that particular child(s)*

Paul saw the church at Thessalonica as a family
so he speaks to them as a family - because they are!

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Jesus Christ.

" HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE "

1.) Conduct Observed by Unselfish Love vv. 1-4

The Manner of His Ministry

Paul was convinced, by the power of the Gospel and by their need of Jesus for salvation - that he gave them all that was needed when he gave them Jesus...

"They had gone crazy for Jesus"

* **Vain GRK kenos (ken-os')**
empty, without content, without results

"The Psychiatric Hotline"

a) The Negative side to Love vv. 2

Paul is challenging them to *"ask anybody in Thessalonica"* they'll tell you that we were right on!

But even after we had **suffered before** and were **spitefully treated**
Physical Abuse & Mental Torture

why did you do it Paul?

For the same reason why my mama did the things she did for me - love & discipline

Love & Discipline Proverbs 29:15

The rod (wooden spoon) and rebuke (tell them what they did wrong) give wisdom.... but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

(a child who hits his mama makes me want to hit that mama)

love will **tell the truth** • love will **point the way** •
love will **give all to endure** • love will **do all to succeed**
as you know, we were **bold** in our God to speak to you
the gospel of God - in much **conflict**.

*

Bold GRK 3955 parrhesiazomai

to be given liberty to speak with confidence and demeanor:

Supernatural Boldness... Why?

#1 - It was the Gospel of God

THE RESURRECTION HOPE

#2 - "in Our God & Much Conflict"

THE OPPOSITION TO IT

Resistance - Throw Back
(How stupid we are when we resist God)

Our Engagement Time

Restaurants - Crab & Lobster & Shrimp - Try This...

Then Our Kids Came Along

Grilled Cheese Sandwich with Ketchup on the side Try This...

THE OPPOSITION TO IT

And Now...

Epicurean delight - A Tuna Omelet. A slice of the Motherload Chocolate Cake at the Claim Jumper in a bowl with milk poured over the top - **it could be a sin!**

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see....

that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Conflicts usually cause people to withdraw

The Integrity/Quality of what you're standing on and for means everything when it's tested! - it's power is revealed !!!

Matthew 7:24

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

b) The Positive side to Love

vv. 3-4

The Message of His Ministry

Paul was Under attack... so he counters with...

>>>>>> Test us and see <<<<<<<<

The Motive of His Ministry

* **exhortation** GRK 3874 **paraklesis (par-ak'-lay-sis)**
comfort, GUIDANCE

* **Guile GRK**
to bait the Hook or to allure the hearer

True Spiritual Witnessing

vs.

Christian Salesmanship

are light years removed from one another

True Spiritual Witnessing is when God Is Speaking (+)

Christian Salesmanship is when a man Is speaking (-)

The Method of His Ministry

* **approved** GRK 1381 **dokimazo (dok-im-ad'-zo)**
to have been tested. examined, Tried over time

Paul spent 3 years in Arabia

and another 7 years In Tarsus after his conversion before any real ministry developed -
(10 years of preparation)

LEADERS MUST BE TIME TESTED

1 Timothy 3:2

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, :3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. :4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. :5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) :6 **He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited** and fall under the same judgment as the devil..... :7 (what does the world think of him too) He must also have a good reputation with non-believers, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

*

Pleasing GRK 700 aresko (ar-es'-ko)

excited emotions that seek to be agreeable "To Smooth the words" or "to dull the knife" (to compromise or to devalue)

to speak with the intent to gain "a following"

"To yield" to the temptation of telling people what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear!

a modern day equivalent

"a doctor deliberately not telling you what you need to know"

A Truthful Physician will not always win Personality Contests!

#1 The early church knew that God's Word was authoritative!

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

THE CONTRARY IS TRUE:

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

You cannot deny truth

you can lie against the truth

you can attack the truth

you can resist the truth

But Truth is Fact and The Facts Remain

#2 The Early Message was given out clear and plain

there was no **Baiting the People**

"come and visit us - Christianity-light, services under an hour, no boring bible studies"

" HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE "

2.) Conduct Observed by Limitless Labor vv. 5-9

a) Limitless Labor - By Laboring Selflessly vv. 5-6

* **Flattering** GRK 2850 kolakeia (kol-ak-i'-ah);
words that put to sleep, words that lull the mind, to build a
false sense of security through words - - "to the speakers glory"

Flattery is the Most Dangerous Form of Lying

Because it is the Manipulation of another to gain your own desires

1. It paints a false picture of them
2. It Promotes Arrogance & Pride
3. It deceives the recipient into a False Reality

Psalm 12:2

They speak vanity every one with his neighbor: with flattering lips and with a
double heart do they speak.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
and those who love it (the tongue) will eat its fruit. (death or Life)

Matthew 12:34

For out of the abundance of the heart - the mouth speaks.

The Mouth is like a mail box - you can only get out of it what's inside of it

Meaning:

Paul requested nothing from his listeners!

Paul was accused of having been a religious Shyster - a con-artist!

(The Easter Services & Christmas Services)

I don't believe offerings should be taken at evangelistic outreaches

offerings are for the church body only and is an offering made by those who love God - not by those who do not or those who feel like they should give

1 Corinthians 9:18

"When I preach the gospel, I present the gospel of Christ without expense,"

b) Limitless Labor - Laboring with Gentleness vv. 7

A family-Like Setting

* **Gentle GRK 2261 epios (ay'-pee-os)**
a mild and kind understanding. To be patient with as a parent is with a child)

* **Cherish GRK 2282 thalpo (thal'-po)**
A hen, a chicken, that broods or warms her young (ENG. Foster - to foster or give nurturing to. (A foster parent)

The Birth of a Hebrew Baby & there first words they Hear

“The Lord, He is God”

Paul was Painting them a vivid reminder

- a contrast between the accusations against him verse his actual conduct among them!

c) Limitless Labor - Laboring Willingly vv. 8-9

No Nursing Substitutes

(an Impartation of Life)

1 Peter 2:2

as newborn babes - desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

(a double negative)

Unreserved Abandonment (of Willingness)

“Outreach will do this to You”

It Was The Prayer of Jabez

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name **Jabez**, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." :10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, #1 "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, #2 and **enlarge my territory**, (give me pasture of disciples to influence) that Your hand would be with me, and #3 that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

<>< <>< <>< Peter “Feed My Sheep” ><> ><> ><>

Holding Nothing Back From Them

For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

Here Paul uses Fatherly language to express his care for them

* Labor: is his tentmaking and selling tents

* Toil: Is the difficulty that he endured while laboring at tents & pastoring the church

The Labor of a Mother is a Labor of Love
THERE IS NO CLOCK SET TO HER LABOR

Ministry offered in Love is just like that - It doesn't matter what time it is
When Love is present - Ministry will be Beautiful

" HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE "

3.) Conduct Observed by a Holy Life vv. 10-12

a) A Holy Life - The Excellency of Paul's life vv. 10

in verse 10 he makes the claim,
in verse 11 he calls upon them to remember his conduct - that
backs up the claim!!!

Calling on God - Internal Witness of Paul's Heart
Calling on them - Eternal Witness of Paul's Life

b) A Holy Life - The Exhortation of Paul vv. 11

* Exhorted GRK 1340765-1354-13
to bring alongside, to bring under the arm, to strengthen.
(The Hebrews would salt rub a new born)

* Comforted GRK 3888 paramotheomai (par-am-oo-theh'-om-ahee);
to encourage with motivation. To promote another to continue on.

* Charged GRK 3143 marturomai (mar-too'-rom-ahee);
to witness, to give affirmation to, to agree with what is being said.

“Now, When I was Your Age...”

1 Corinthians 4:14-15

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. :15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Galatians 4:19

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

- When Paul Exhorted - He exhorted them with all Authority in love
- When Paul Comforted - He comforted them with all Authority in love
- When Paul Charged - He charged them with all Authority in love

“A Tender Authority” Like a Grandpa Has

There is no Doubt in the Listeners Ears
- He loves Me !!!

Compassion without Compromise

c) A Holy Life: - The Effect of Paul’s Life vv. 12

" HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE "

Paul preached a radical new message to a self-centered, godless city that lived for only themselves

His life displayed the power of that message so that all could affirm its effectiveness

Paul Challenged them to follow the Lord right into His Kingdom & Glory