

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY
MEN OF THE WORD
MEN'S MINISTRY
2021-2022

1 Thessalonians - "The Coming of the Lord"

Session 3

1 Thessalonians 2:1-7

"The motive for sharing the gospel"

Paul now makes evident that as we share the gospel by word and by deed, it is important why and how we do so. We must be diligent to check our motives for what we do. People must be able to see our integrity; that our motives are pure and selfless. Otherwise, we open the message itself up to criticism because of the lack of integrity in the messenger. The motive of our hearts must be to please the Lord, to win others to Christ, and to nurture their growth in the Lord, with no consideration for personal safety or gain or glory. Paul shows all the qualities of a messenger with integrity in this passage. As you study the passage, examine your own motives in sharing the gospel (or if you don't). What can you learn from Paul's example of integrity?

Personal Study Time Questions:

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

The word "**vain**" in v.1 is believed to be speaking of the *character* of Paul's ministry, not the *result* of it. What do you see of Paul's character in v.2 based on the circumstances in which he is willing to speak the gospel to the Thessalonians?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

The word "**but**" to start v.4 establishes a contrast between what wasn't and what was Paul's motive. What was Paul NOT exhorting them from? Why was Paul willing to even suffer to speak the truth of God's Word? What statement in v.4 tells us why we should be careful to always check our motives?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:5

What did Paul never use, “*at any time,*” in his sharing of the gospel, and what was never the motive that was driving him? What does this suggest as a warning against those who try to “tickle your ears”?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:6

What was Paul not seeking after as he ministered to the Thessalonians? Therefore, what did he not do toward them?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:7; Matthew 24:45

Rather than demanding they supply his needs, how did Paul treat those he spoke and ministered the gospel to? What does the analogy of the “*nursing mother*” suggest in Paul’s thinking as he taught the truth of the gospel (see the Matthew verse)?

Group Discussion:

Do you share the wonderful truth of the gospel with others? If not, what is the reason (motive for) why you don’t? How do they compare to what Paul WAS willing to go through in order to get the saving message of the gospel to others? If you do share, examine your own motives to be sure that nothing in your attitudes and actions might hinder the work of the gospel in people’s lives. What in Paul’s motives in the passage would be a good focus point for you in making changes either way?

Hiding God’s Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):

“But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4