

## I THESSALONIANS 2:3-10

### A. I Thessalonians 2:3 - For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

1. Paul tells the Thessalonians that when he and his coworkers were with them on his first visit, when they preached they had the purest of motives. Paul didn't want anything to take away from the pure gospel.
  - a. \*[was not of deceit,] Paul reminds them that when, and what, he preached did not come from error- it was not false nor deceptive. It was all true.

Colossians 1:5 - For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

- b. The reason Paul's message was true is that it came from God and not from man.

Galatians 1:11-12 - But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. Gal 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 14:37 - If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

II Corinthians 4:1-2- Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2Co 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2. [nor of uncleanness,]
  - a. Gentile pagans were full of impurity and immorality as part of their religious ceremonies. Women gave themselves in the name of their gods.

\*Some of Paul's attackers accused him of belonging to such a group.
  - b. So Paul separates himself and his associates here from these cults in Thessalonica that are practicing sexual license. Paul says no impure motive brought the Gospel of Grace to Thessalonica.

3. [nor in guile:]
  - a. Paul tells them he had not tried to trick or fool them in order to win them.

\*In that time there were many philosophers, jugglers, sorcerers, fakers, swindlers, and hustlers. Just about like today!
  - b. Paul did not use bait, but remained above reproach with the truth of the gospel.

Romans 2:16 - In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Note: A big deception today is deceiving people into thinking that they are Israel - and they are not!

### B. I Thessalonians 2:4 - But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

1. When Paul preached, his goal was to please God and not men. Why? God **owned** the gospel and not men. God was the Person who had called Paul to proclaim the gospel. Paul was God's! God alone would have Paul, one day, stand before Him and give an **account** of his preaching.

I Corinthians 4:4 - For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Galatians 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.

2. Paul is also saying: God, who tests our hearts, has confirmed our fitness to be entrusted with the gospel. Here, Paul invokes God as a witness to their character.

I Timothy 1:11-12 - According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. 1Tim. 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

- C. 

<u>I Thessalonians 2:5</u> - For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God <i>is</i> witness:
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1. Paul and his team never used "flattering words" to gain converts. Paul never used undue, untrue compliments to **soften** the people to get something from them for himself. He didn't use flattery to win votes or to become popular with them (flattery is lying).

Psalms 78:36 - Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.

2. [nor a cloke of covetousness;] Paul never went into a city with the idea that he was going to benefit by seeing how much **money** he could leave with. Never!

- a. Evidently Paul's accusers tried to say Paul's preaching was only to get gain, in order to make him look evil. :|Paul's lifestyle **disproved** this!

I Thessalonians 2:9 - For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8 - Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

I Corinthians 9:11-12 - If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? 1Cor. 9:12 If others be partakers of *this* power over you, *are* not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

- b. \*\*Paul also said:

I Corinthians 9:9, 14 - For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? 1Cor. 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

I Timothy 5:17-18 - Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 1Tim. 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.

3. [God is witness:] Paul says that God can verify-testify of their character and intentions. Paul's track record also proves that Paul told the truth.

\*Even if God's servants may not experience full justice or confirmation here, they will be vindicated in glory at the Bema Seat.

D. I Thessalonians 2:6 - Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

1. Paul did not want, or was not looking, to be recognized as the leader or to have a position of authority. Paul, Silas, and Timothy did not go to Thessalonica to find cheering and adoring fans/crowds for their oratory speech.
2. Then Paul says if he had wanted to, he had the right as an apostle to assert his authority over them. Paul says they could have claimed the honor associated with the apostolic office and actually demanded economic assistance. **\*\*But they did not.** In another place, Paul did the same thing:

II Corinthians 11:9 - And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all *things* I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and *so* will I keep *myself*.

3. Here in the case of the Thessalonians - Paul, Silas, and Timothy did not depend upon the new converts for their sustenance. They did receive help from others.

Philippians 4:16 - For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

**\*\*Note:** When Paul also calls Silas and Timothy apostles, they were in a secondary sense. Paul is the main apostle - even as the 12.

E. I Thessalonians 2:7 - But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

1. Paul says he used his preaching-authority in grace and love. The Thessalonians couldn't help but notice Paul's tenderness, even as a mother's to her own children. \*Paul had been kind, considerate, and concerned for their wellbeing as new believers.
2. Paul, Silas, and Timothy were spiritual parents. They had nursed these believers on God's Word to try and help them to grow and mature.

I Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

F. I Thessalonians 2:8 - So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

\*To Paul, his preaching was life itself. He cared for these believers so much that he not only gave them the gospel, but he also poured into them his very soul. Paul committed his love and everything he had for their benefit.

G. I Thessalonians 2:9 - For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

1. Paul preached every **opp**portunity he had; while at the same time, laboring night and day. Paul did not have a forty-hour nor five-day work week. Paul was certainly not lazy, but worked and slept when needed.

\*Paul still made tents to help pay his way. It wasn't easy to make tents and minister the Word at the **same** time. Paul did whatever he had to in order to help the team all he could.

2. Later Paul states:

II Thessalonians 3:10 - For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

\*We also know the Philippians sent Paul some money, but not enough to permit Paul's team to evangelize **full**-time (Phil. 4:15-16).

- H. I Thessalonians 2:10 - Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

1. Paul believed and reminds them that they and God, if necessary, could testify on Paul's **be**half of his clean and holy living. They had watched and heard Paul. Paul is saying his life (along with his co-workers' lives), behavior, conduct, and practice was:
  - a. [holily] While ministering, they were faithfully and carefully reflecting God's character. They were Christ**like**.
  - b. [justly] They operated in a just manner with **in**tegrity of character toward the Thessalonians.
  - c. [unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:]  
\*Paul and his team lived **above** reproach before the congregation.
2. Paul's enemies might accuse him, but no one could find fault in him or his actions. Paul was careful so that these new converts would not be **dis**heartened by seeing any hypocrisy in Paul and his coworkers.

Let's recap and make some application.

- 2:1 Paul had been faithful in his preaching (truth of **revel**ation).
- 2:2 Paul was bold in his preaching, even while **be**ing attacked.
- 2:3 Paul's preaching had the purest motives and was without deception.
- 2:4 Paul preached to please **God**, not men.
- 2:5 Paul did not preach for what he could get out of them.
- 2:6 Paul did not preach in order to get the gain of **per**sonal glory or title.
- 2:7 Paul preached graciously and **lov**ingly.
- 2:8 Paul's preaching involved him giving of his **total** being and heart.
- 2:9 Paul preached while still laboring night and day.
- 2:10 Paul preached while always maintaining a clean and **holy** life.