

## 1 THESSALONIANS

### Chapter 2 Bible Study

### Day 5 (Week 8)

#### Paul Remembers His Visit

<sup>1</sup> You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. <sup>2</sup> You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup> So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery.

<sup>4</sup> For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. <sup>5</sup> Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! <sup>6</sup> As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

<sup>7</sup> As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup> We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

<sup>9</sup> Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you. <sup>10</sup> You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. <sup>11</sup> And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. <sup>12</sup> We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

<sup>14</sup> And then, dear brothers and sisters, you suffered persecution from your own countrymen. In this way, you imitated the believers in God's churches in Judea who, because of their belief in Christ Jesus, suffered from their own people, the Jews. <sup>15</sup> For some of the Jews killed the prophets, and some even killed the Lord Jesus. Now they have persecuted us, too. They fail to please God and work against all humanity <sup>16</sup> as they try to keep us from preaching the Good News of salvation to

the Gentiles. By doing this, they continue to pile up their sins. But the anger of God has caught up with them at last.

### **Timothy's Good Report about the Church**

<sup>17</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. <sup>18</sup> We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us. <sup>19</sup> After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! <sup>20</sup> Yes, you are our pride and joy.

### **Study Guide Questions**

1. How was Paul treated at Philippi, which was the place they visited before they came to the Church in Thessalonica? (V2a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How were they able to declare the Good News of Jesus, to the people, with such great opposition coming against them? (V2b) \_\_\_\_\_
3. When you deal with people, they often times judge you by your outer appearances (how you look on the outside). In contrast to that, what does God look at? (4b) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Was Paul trying to trying to win people over or impress them so that he could get what he needed for his ministry? (V4-6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Paul and his ministry team share with the Church in Thessalonica, out of their great love for them? (2 things from V8) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Paul support himself while he was traveling around, starting Churches? (V9) \_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Paul treat the people in the Church of Thessalonica? (V10-12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Even though Paul was a human being, in what way did the Church in Thessalonica receive what he had to say? (V13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What were people really doing, when they killed the prophets that told about the coming Messiah, or when they even killed Jesus, or when they persecute those in the Church? (3 things from V15,16) \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Even though Paul and his ministry team really wanted to come visit the Church in Thessalonica, what prevented them? (V17,18) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What will be Paul's pride and joy one day, as he stands before the Lord Jesus when He returns? (V19,20) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflection/Application:** What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Prayer Guide:** Based upon the **fifth** part of the Lord's Prayer (*don't let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one*), pray and ask God to help you overcome temptation to do the wrong thing during your day. These temptations comes from your selfish desires inside you, but also are influenced by the evil one (Satan).

**Answer Key**

1. They were treated badly and suffered much.
2. God gave them the courage.
3. God examines the motives of your heart.
4. No, he was only interested in pleasing God.
5. The good news of Jesus, and their own lives.
6. He/They toiled to earn a living night and day so that he wouldn't be a burden.
7. He was devout, honest and faultless. He treated them as a father treats his own children and encouraged them to live in a way that pleases God.
8. Not as mere human ideas, but as the very Word of God.
9. They were failing to please God, working against "All" humanity, and piling up their sins.
10. It was Satan.
11. The people that Paul poured his life into will be his reward and crown, when Jesus returns.