

## 1 Thessalonians 2 New American Standard Bible

### Paul's Ministry

For you yourselves know, brothers *and sisters*, that our reception among you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup> but after we had already suffered and been treated abusively in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. <sup>3</sup> For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit; <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but *to please* God, who examines our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is *our* witness— <sup>6</sup> nor did we seek honor from people, either from you or from others, though we could have asserted our authority as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we proved to be gentle among you. As a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children, <sup>8</sup> in the same way we had a fond affection for you and were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

<sup>9</sup> For you recall, brothers *and sisters*, our labor and hardship: *it was by* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, *that* we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and *so is* God, *of* how devoutly and rightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; <sup>11</sup> just as you know how *we were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, <sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of *mere* men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe. <sup>14</sup> For you, brothers *and sisters*, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, <sup>[1]</sup> but hostile to all people, <sup>16</sup> hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always reach the limit of their sins. But wrath has come upon them fully.

<sup>17</sup> But we, brothers *and sisters*, having been orphaned from you *by absence* for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For who *is* our hope, or joy or crown of pride, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Or *is it* not indeed you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

### We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. What does 'doing something in vain' mean? It means there was no point in doing it!
2. Paul is saying 'this was not the case when I came to Thessalonica'.
3. The fact that we came, created a whole lot of good for you and all the towns around you.
4. It would have been easy not to have come when you consider the sufferings we experienced at Philippi and the way we were mistreated.
5. Jesus said in Matthew 5 'blessed are you when you are prosecuted for righteousness sake' that means doing what is right no matter what the consequences.
6. How often have you not done something when you should have done it, but you haven't done it through fear of the consequences?
7. If we need to do difficult things we will need boldness to do it. That boldness comes to us from God when we ask Him believing we have received it.
8. The gospel of our God is the revelation of the gift of God - His Son Jesus Christ.
9. Our exaltations, that's the message we bring, comes from God not from impure motives.
10. God trusted us to bring you this wonderful message.
11. When we speak it, it's not to please the opinions of man but to please God.
12. He knows our motives are pure, we never try to butter you up or take anything from you, we gave you the message freely and lovingly even as God gave it to us.
13. Paul delivered the message with gentleness.
14. We carried the message to you in love.
15. We also gave you our hearts and let you into ours.
16. We gave you our hands, meaning we worked hard among you.
17. We laboured in love for your well-being, all we did was to enhance your journey back to God.
18. Our testimony of all we did is before you and before God, He knows the truth.
19. Our message was that you grow to believe and become like Jesus our saviour, even as we were seeking to become like Him.
20. The giving of thanks will empower you to believe when you use it to ask God to answer your prayers for others.

21. When you heard what we told you, you accepted it as from God.
22. You believed in your spirit what we said to you, you were convinced and so were able to benefit from what we said because you believed us.
23. What is it to imitate God's people?
24. Your desire to obey Him led you to suffer but that did not stop you from being obedient.
25. Your own people persecuted you when you proclaimed the message to them.
26. The Jews at that time became enemies of the gospel message and persecuted us and tried to stop us from telling the gentiles the gospel.
27. Paul says 'there is a judgement that is coming to those who have done this'.
28. When Paul says 'we were taken away from you in person' he is saying physically we could not be with you, but our spirits were just as much with you as if our bodies were there also.
29. Nevertheless, our flesh longed for you, longed to see you and embrace your love.
30. How can satan hinder the work of God?
31. He does it by invitation and enticement, tempting us away from the ways of God.
32. Our hope is the expectation of reunion at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.