

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with power, but with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and glorify. May he strengthen you and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should be sanctified; that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life. You should mind your own business and your hands, just as we told you. Brothers, we do not want

to be informed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

Objectives: We want to discover Paul's motives and approach in shepherding the Thessalonians. We want to apply this by figuring out how to imitate Paul as he imitated Christ (1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Thess. 3:9).

Launch:

What do you remember about v. 1-4 from last week's study?

Explore:

Verses 2:5-12

- ❖ Verse 5 starts with "For", what is Paul trying to show them in verses 5-12? (*He is reminding them of how they lived in order to please God and not man*)
- ❖ What is the contrast in 5-12?
- ❖ List and explain what they did not do. (Write on a white board)
- ❖ List and explain what they did do. (white board)
- ❖ What stands out to you as you look at what they did or did not do?

This whole passage is about their ministry of the gospel of God.

- What are different words that Paul uses that are associated with the gospel? (*declare, much conflict, entrusted, share, proclaim, gospel OF GOD*)
- What do these word choices communicate to us?
- According to this passage what is God's role in discipleship? (*It's His gospel, He gives boldness, He tests and approves, He entrusts and calls, He is a witness, He calls people into His Kingdom, He helps*)
- What is our role? (*speak in order to please God, share the gospel and our*

lives, labor, toil, proclaim, share the gospel of God, live holy lives, exhort, encourage and charge)

Summary:

- In this short passage we saw Paul's motivation for ministry (pleasing God), his goal (v 12), and some different things he did and did not do.

Apply: (at least 15 minutes!)

- In light of this, what is one thing that needs to change in your life as you minister to others?
- What can you apply as you minister to people in your work place here?
- What will keep you from making this change?

Pray for one another.

Homework: Homework #5