

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, 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 that you will be blameless in the presence of our God and Father and Lord Jesus Christ 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 Christ. 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

Homework - 3

Spend some time this week reading 1 Thessalonians chapter two. Read it every day, if possible. Remember that the more time you spend in it, the better you will understand it and the more it will seep into your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see what He has for you in His Word.

I. Read chapter 2.

What are your general observations, impressions, thoughts, questions, and feelings?

II. Re-read Acts 16 & 17.

a. 1 Thessalonians 2:2& 9 talks about how Paul and his co-workers had suffered and were insulted and yet they continued “telling the gospel in spite of strong opposition.” What is Paul referring to?

Why do you think they kept sharing the gospel?

b. One technique that is helpful in interpreting scripture is looking for contrasts. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 in the English Standard Version keeping your eyes open for words like “but” or “for” that will help identify the contrasting ideas.

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵

