We always thank God for all of you and continually men- tion you in our prayers. Becauseourgospelcametoyou not simply with words but also with the Holy Spiritand deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not kooking for praise from	people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our author- ity, 7 Instead, we were like young child ren among you encouraging, comforting and unging you to like lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom	and glo- ry. May be strengthen your hearts so thar you will be blamcless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is Gods will that you should be sanctified that you should avoid seaual immonility. And to make it your ambi- tion to lead a quiet life You should make it your ambi- tion to lead a quiet life You should make it with you filte your hands, just as we told you. Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be un-	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 tothe Lord's word, wetell you that we who are still	alive, who are left until the corning of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen askep. For the Lord himself will cornedownfrom heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archan- of the archan- din Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will	be caught up together with them in the clocks to meet the Lord in the air And so we will be wwwith the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with thesewords Pray continually, give thanks in all circum-stances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus Donot querch the Spirit. For God did not appoint us
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<sup>1</sup> For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. <sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed– God is witness.<sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.<sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.<sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.<sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup>we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

a. What is the idea Paul is contrasting between vs. 5&6 and 7-12?

- b. Verses 5-12 describe how Paul lived in a manner that was pleasing to God. Reread vs. 5-12 listing what Paul and his co-workers did to live lives that are pleasing to God.
- c. List what they explicitly did not do.

Ask the Lord to begin showing you what needs to change in your life so you can live a life pleasing to Him.

*I.* Look for the roles that Paul talks about playing in the lives of the Thessalonians and list them below.

a.What or who come to mind when you think of these roles.

b.Which role do you identify with most?

c.Which role would you like to grow in?

A. Re-read 2:1-12 listing any words that are associated with "the gospel".

1. What can we learn about being a minister of the gospel from this passage?

B. This is a great passage about ministering to others.

- 1. From this passage, what is God's role in ministering to others?
- 2. What is our role?