

The Life and Letters of Paul

1 Thessalonians 2

1. Have you ever heard a message and just assumed it was for someone else, interesting enough Paul is speaking to the Church as a whole. All are included in this letter, you are included when God's word is given.

1 Thessalonians 2:1a(NLT)- Brothers and Sisters/
cannot stop being part of the body

1 Corinthians 12:15-20(NLT)-

2. There are many times when the word is preached no matter what the vessel and we let it fall on deaf ears, but if we allow the word to work in our lives it can literally change your life.

1 Thessalonians 2:1b(NLT)- not a failure. / **Isaiah 55:10-11(NLT)**- leave your old life and my word is fruitful

3. How difficult is it for you to preach an message of hope (the gospel) when you have been treated badly? What keeps you going?

1 Thessalonians 2:2(NLT)- how much we suffered there. / **Acts 16:22-24(NLT)**- stripped and beaten. / **Acts 4:31(NLT)**- Boldness comes from God.

4. It is very important that when we speak on behalf of God to his people that we check our motives.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-5(NLT)- Never once did we try to win you/ Galatians 1:10(NLT)

5. Is fellowship with God's people difficult to do outside of the bounds of Church? Same question for Leaders? Thoughts?

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8(NLT)- As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands

6. Paul and his associates engaged in manual labor to support themselves while in the city as an example to the Thessalonians and to avoid becoming an economic *burden* to them.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-10(NLT)-

Proverbs 20:4(NLT)- no work no harvest

7. When we are pouring into to people, it is not for us to fix them (that is the work of the holy spirit) it is to see them as part of god's kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12(NLT)- Paul adopts to see better for them. / **Matthew 7:12(NLT)-** Golden Rule.

8. When the word of God is presented with the right motives and the right heart it has the ability to go where God wants it to go. (gives a 2nd thanks)

1 Thessalonians 2:13(NLT)- You accepted what we said as the very word of God.

Hebrews 4:12(NLT)- For the word of God is alive

9. The evidence that the Thessalonian believers accepted the word of God was that they suffered persecution This followed the pattern of the apostles, the churches in Judea and Christ himself.

1 Thessalonians 2:14-15 (NLT)- (1:6)/ **Acts 8:1(NLT)-** Paul was the persecution (WOW)

10. The work that is done against the gospel message is just as evident now as it was then, however there will be a time where God will intervene.

1 Thessalonians 2:16 (NLT)-/ Exodus 34:6/ Numbers 14:18/ Psalm 103:8/ Psalm 145:8

2 Peter 3:9

Paul goes on to encourage the believers on how he misses them and wants to get back, but Satan is preventing them, none the less he is proud of the work being done in them.