

Impacting & Influencing Family & Friends With The Gospel
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
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Some Quick Facts About The Apostle Paul

1. Paul was born around _____ AD.
 2. Paul studied under Gamaliel around _____ AD.
 3. Paul is converted on the road to Damascus around _____ AD.
 4. Paul spent 3 years in Arabia learning from the Lord around _____ AD.
 5. Paul visited Jerusalem around _____ AD.
 6. Paul spent time in Tarsus between _____ AD.
 7. Paul's first missionary journey was between _____ AD.
 8. Paul's second missionary journey was between _____ AD.
 9. Paul's third missionary journey was between _____ AD.
 10. Paul's journey to Rome & house arrest was between _____ AD.
 11. Paul's release from house arrest was between _____ AD.
 12. Paul's final imprisonment and execution by Rome was around _____ AD.
- I believe the most important word in the English language, apart from proper nouns, is _____ . You say, "But love has to be the most important word." I disagree. I see the relationship as like a railroad track and love is the train that goes across the track. Without a relationship, love cannot be expressed.
 - + *John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him" (NIV).*
 - + *2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance" (NASB).*
 - + *1 Thessalonians 2:1-6, "You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. ²You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare His Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition. ³So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery. ⁴For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. ⁵Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! ⁶As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else" (NLT).*

How Can We Impact & Influence Our Family & Friends With the Gospel?

1. First, we have to be _____ to their needs (1 Thess. 2:7).
 - + *1 Thessalonians 2:7, "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children" (NASB).*
 - The word "gentle" is the Greek New Testament word [νήπιος; nēpios]. This words can be translated as "infant, child" as well as "gentle."
 - The word translated as "mother" is the Greek New Testament word [τροφός; trofos] it refers to a _____ mother.
 - Gentle conveys a host of other virtues: acceptance, respect, compassion, tolerance of imperfections, patience, tenderheartedness, and loyalty.
2. Second, we have to have a real _____ for them (1 Thess. 2:8).
 - + *1 Thessalonians 2:8, "Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us" (NASB).*
 - The word translated as "affection" is the Greek New Testament word [ὑμειρομαί, homeiromai]. Since this is the only time this Greek word is used in the whole New Testament, we have to go to classical Greek writings to know its meaning. It means to long for someone passionately and earnestly. and, being linked to a mother's love, is intended here to express an affection so deep and compelling as to be unsurpassed.

3. Third, we have to live lives that are _____ and _____ (1 Thess. 2:9-10).

+ 1 Thessalonians 2:9-10, "For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers" (NASB)

4. Fourth, we have to be enthusiastic in our _____ of them (1 Thess. 2:11).

+ 1 Thessalonians 2:11, You know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children" (NASB).

+ 1 Thessalonians 2:12, "So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory" (NASB).

How Do We Apply These Four Truths To Our Lives?

1. Refuse to be a _____.

+ 1 Thessalonians 2:4, "For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts" (NLT).

2. Commit to _____ in every area of your life.

+ Philippians 4:8-9, "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you" (NLT).

+ 2 Peter 2:13, "By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the one who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence" (NLT).

+ 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the excellency and glory of God" (PAR).

+ Colossians 3:23, "Whatever things you are doing, do them well. Remember that you are serving the Lord. You are not only serving people" (ESY).

3. Strengthen and stretch your _____ (1 Thess. 2:12).

+ Matthew 12:9-13, "Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, ¹⁰where He noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, 'Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?' (They were hoping He would say yes, so they could bring charges against Him.) ¹¹And He answered, 'If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. ¹²And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath.' ¹³Then He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' So the man held out his hand, and it was restored, just like the other one!" (GNT).

***** Next Steps Devotional Questions *****

1. What buttons in your life do your family and friends know to push that cause them to be resistant to the Gospel due to your reaction or behavior?
2. It is apparent Paul was deeply hurt by his treatment in Philippi (See Phil. 2:2). Read through Acts 16:11-40 on this also. How do you respond to family and friends who hurt you?
3. How we react or respond to family and friends who hurt us reveals more about our relationship to Christ than it does about them? What does this kind of hurt reveal about your relationship to Christ and your willingness for them to come to Christ? Read Luke 23:34a. How do you measure up to this verse?
4. How will you let the Lord stretch and strengthen you so that you become who He wants, so that He gets the glory and so that your family and friends may come to the Lord?
5. 1 Cor. 10:31 & Col. 3:23 tells us that whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, do it all to the excellency and glory of God. Why? We are really do this for the Lord and no one else. How should you do this with your lost family and friends? How can you serve them with their opposition to the Gospel without severing the relationship so that the train of God's love can travel across your relationship to them to reach them?