

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. 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. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 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. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 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.

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. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, 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.

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Outline

The Fear of God, v. 1-6

1. v. 1-2 He preached boldly, fearing God and not his persecutors
2. v. 3-6 He preached to please God, not win their approval

The Love of People, v. 7-12

3. The love of a mother for her children
4. The love of a father for his children

In sum, Paul, called by the Gospel, is cherishing the Gospel and commending the Gospel.

The heart of the passage is Paul's awareness of grace in his own life:

1 Thessalonians 2:4 “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.”

He speaks of this elsewhere:

1 Timothy 1:12-16 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, *because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service*, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy (*Wow, here is grace*). . . ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But *I received mercy* for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Application

Those who are called by the Gospel, are to cherish the Gospel and commend the Gospel.

1. Reflect on the amazing grace of God to you in your sin. Compare what you deserve to what God has given you in Christ. Review the evil of your sin and the greatness of his grace.
 2. Discern ways to commend the Gospel to others around you - pray for God to give you boldness and for God to open doors for the message.
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