

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

July 27, 2025

1. **1 Thess.2:1-12** How the Gospel was delivered
2. **2:1** - Paul reiterates what he wrote about in the first chapter
 - a. that his visit wasn't a failure
 - b. based on the changed lives
 - c. of those who were converted
 - d. Not only their changed lives,
 - i. but also, how this small group of converts
 - ii. became a beacon
 - iii. to all those in Mesopotamia and Achaia
3. **2:2** - Paul reminds them of what he and Silas went through
 - a. in Philippi
 - b. prior to coming to Thessalonica

Acts 16:22-24

"The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks."

- c. The message they preached in Philippi
 - i. which brought on them severe persecution,
 - ii. was the same message
 - iii. he was bringing to them in Thessalonica.
 - d. Their willingness to embrace
 - i. those same kinds of response
 - ii. to their preaching was proof
 - iii. of their genuineness
 - iv. and the validation of their message.
 - e. Who would be willing to risk that kind of intense persecution
 - i. to perpetuate
 - ii. a false narrative/message
 - f. **Subsequently**, the opposition to their message
 - i. did follow them to Thessalonica
4. **2:3** - Paul denied three allegations:
 - a. his *message* was not deceptive;

- i. it was truth, not **error**;
 - b. his *motivation* was not **impure**,
 - i. but was clean;
 - c. his *method* was not to **trick**, mislead, or deceive them,
 - i. but was straightforward
 - d. Easy to question people's motives
 - i. People frequently have a hidden agenda when they are reaching out
 - ii. "Ok, what do you really want?"
 - 1. Very common when it comes to religion
 - 2. People are not accustomed
 - a. To having people, do things for them
 - b. out of sheer being nice
5. **2.:4** - God could work through these men
- a. because their motives were pure
 - i. hence, he could work powerfully
 - ii. and the credit would not be ascribed to these men,
 - iii. nor would they want to take the credit.
 - b. Paul and Silas and Timothy could be trusted,
 - i. not because of their current situation,
 - ii. but they were tested over time.
 - iii. Years of testing
 - c. Paul's view of himself was
 - i. that he was simply a servant
 - ii. doing what his master requested of him.
 - d. Paul didn't request this line of work
 - i. God selected him for this task

Acts 9:15–16

"But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

- ii. Paul was certainly not trying to win a popularity contest
 - 1. His message was challenging
 - 2. Oppositional to Jewish doctrine
 - 3. Confrontational with Roman civic ideology
 - a. "there's a new king in town"

6. **2:5** - Flattery is a common method
 - a. of gaining trust and favorability.
 - i. Paul's message on the contrary
 1. was direct
 2. and to the point.
 - ii. The gospel is the life of Jesus, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
 - iii. Paul's message wasn't about elevating himself,
 1. his life reflected the validity of the gospel.
 - iv. There were no impressions of greed,
 1. because he worked
 2. for a living
 3. to provide for his necessities.
7. **2:6** - Now-a-days, preachers depend on verbal affirmations
 - a. to substantiate their value to others.
 - b. They love to hear things about their preaching like:
 - i. That was an awesome lesson
 - ii. Your preaching is really great
 - iii. Your preaching is the best I've ever heard.
 - iv. Evangelistically: You need to come to my church
 1. because we have a great preacher.
 - c. That was **not** Paul
 - i. In fact, churches today
 1. would probably turn him away
 2. in deference to a better speaker
 - ii. For Paul, it wasn't about style
 1. so much as it was about content

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

8. Paul shifted the emphasis somewhat
 - a. from the preachers' activities
 - b. to the hearers' responses
 - c. Paul here refers to what he talks about back in **Chapter 1 vs 6**:

"You became imitators of us and of the Lord"

9. How did this church imitate Paul?
 - a. By imitating his love for them.
 - i. Delighted not only in sharing the gospel with them
 1. Which every disciple is responsible to do
 - ii. But he shared his life with them

10. Like a mother caring for her children

1 Thessalonians 2:6–9

“As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.”

- a. He worked night and day not to be a burden but only a joy to them
- b. Paul was entitled to be compensated for his work in bringing the gospel to them

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

“This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. Don’t we have the right to food and drink? Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas? Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn’t the Law say the same thing? For it is written in the Law of Moses: “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely, he says this for us, doesn’t he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn’t we have it all the more?

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don’t you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

But I have not used any of these rights.”

- c. Need more people in the ministry
 - i. to work a full-time job
 - ii. and continue to share the gospel
 - iii. (without a paycheck attached).
- d. GOAL: Not providing a financial burden to the church

- i. Allowing the money raised by the church to help those who are really in need
 - 1. Widows. Orphans, Single mothers/fathers
 - 2. Those who lose their jobs
 - 3. Families which have unexpected medical bills

11. Like a father

1 Thessalonians 2:11–12

“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.”

- a. Encouraging, comforting and urging
- b. This is what fathers are to do with their children
 - i. Encouraging – putting courage into them – give them a vision
 - ii. Comforting- when disappointment or tragedy happens
 - iii. Urging – motivating them, making sure they stay on the right path.

12. They endured persecution

1 Thessalonians 2:14–15

“For you, brothers, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out.”

Acts 17:5–9

*“But the Jews were jealous; so, they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, **they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”** When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.”*

- a. The Thessalonians were not only imitators of Paul, Silas, Timothy and the Lord
 - i. **(1 Thess.1:6)**
- b. But also imitators of other strong congregations
 - i. We need to ask ourselves:
 - 1. Are we as a church worthy of being imitated?
 - 2. Are we standing up for the gospel in such a way that we too are being persecuted?
 - ii. Can you name a church that is being persecuted by a community? – For their public stance on the Bible?
 - 1. Publicly standing up against:

2. Homosexuality
3. Premarital Sex and Adultery
4. All forms of pornography
5. Abortion
6. Gender identities
7. Divorce
8. Greed
9. Defiance of the Government – Immigration
10. Religious hypocrisy – Catholicism (the Pope)
11. False doctrines promoted by Denominational churches

iii. Churches won't be persecuted for Advocating:

1. Taking care of the poor
2. Using church resources to help those in need
3. Absolute purity in relationships

13. We need to remember that God will deal

- a. with anyone who persecutes a person
- b. or church
- c. for their stand against Ungodliness.

1 Thessalonians 2:16

"In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last."

Romans 12:17–20

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

14. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

- a. Paul closes this portion of his letter
 - i. by showing just how much
 - ii. he loved the Thessalonian church
 - iii. by saying:

1 Thessalonians 2:17–20

“But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us. For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.”

- b. That word “**torn away**” is like
 - i. When a child goes away to college
 - ii. Leaves the house to start a new career
 - iii. Gets married
 - iv. When saying “goodbye” to a parent who is dying
 - v. A best friend who is moving out-of-state or a new country
 - vi. When a mother has to leave her child to go back to work
 - 1. There is a pain that pulls at your heart
 - c. That is the love that pulled at Paul’s heart leaving
 - i. He reiterates his love
 - ii. by expressing his intense longing
 - iii. to be with them
 - d. And the effort he made to rejoin them
15. Satan is constantly at work
- a. He will stop at nothing to isolate us
 - i. from those spiritually love
 - ii. and care for us
 - b. As he did, he will arouse jealousy in people
 - c. He will use religious people
 - i. To separate us
 - ii. Persecute us
 - iii. Stir up controversy
16. I personally feel like Paul when I see all of you
- a. You are my glory
 - b. And joy
 - c. You are what makes the hardships I have endured over the years’ worth it.
 - i. Your faith
 - ii. Your love
 - iii. Your perseverance

- d. Not just you here online today
 - i. But for all those I have
 - 1. Studied the Bible with
 - 2. Discipled and trained
 - 3. Shared fellowship with
 - ii. All over the world