

Paul's Vision For The Thessalonians

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Acts 17:1-4 ¹When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he declared. ⁴Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few leading women. (BSB)

I Thessalonians 1:1-13 ¹You yourselves know, brothers, that our visit to you was not in vain. ²As you are aware, we had already endured suffering and shameful treatment in Philippi. But in the face of strong opposition, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God. ³For our appeal does not arise from deceit or ulterior motives or trickery. ⁴Instead, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, not in order to please men but God, who examines our hearts. ⁵As you know, we never used words of flattery or any pretext for greed. God is our witness! ⁶Nor did we seek praise from you or from anyone else, although as apostles of Christ we had authority to demand it. ⁷On the contrary, we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother caring for her children. ⁸We cared so deeply that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our own lives as well. That is how beloved you have become to us. ⁹Surely you recall, brothers, our labor and toil. We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous, and blameless our conduct was among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children—¹²encouraging you, comforting you, and urging you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. ¹³And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—the word which is now at work in you who believe. (BSB)

I. What does this passage tell us about Paul's vision for the Thessalonians?

- A.** He did not let past persecution prevent him from being faithful to preaching the Gospel. V. 1-2
- B.** His motivation for evangelism was to please God not people. V.3-4
- C.** He was willing to be transparent and vulnerable before the Thessalonians. V. 5-8
- D.** He modeled a strong work ethic before the Thessalonians. V. 9-10
- E.** He saw the Thessalonians as family. V.11-12
- F.** He kept his ministry Bible focused and did not wander off into other topics. V.13

II. What can we learn from this passage?

- A.** We must learn from the past but not let the past control us.
- B.** We must live for an audience of One.
- C.** We must allow ourselves some grace not to be perfect and to admit our failures.
- D.** We must be people of character and responsibility.
- E.** We must allow other Christians to have family status in our life.
- F.** We must stay on message. The Word of God should overrule our culture in our faith and practice.