



1 THESSALONIANS 2: 1-8

Letter	Date of Writing	Place of Writing
1st Thessalonians	54 A.D.	Corinth

Verse 10 - [From Session 5]

What has Jesus done for us? His return at the Rapture will prove that He has **delivered us from the wrath to come**. What is this wrath we are already delivered from? It is the *great day of his wrath*, mentioned in Revelation 6:17, *in which no one will be able to stand*. We call this the Great Tribulation. Believers in Jesus Christ are already delivered from that wrath.

Our deliverance was made sure the moment we believed, and it will be made manifest at the Rapture of the church which Paul will describe in greater detail later in our 1st Thessalonian study!

Chapter 2

Verse 1 -

For you yourselves know, brethren what Paul is about to say is common knowledge to the Church in Thessalonica. He is not trying to convince them of anything; instead, he is confirming a truth they already know—Paul does this a lot. What is it they already knew? **Our coming to you was not in vain**. The word **vain** is the Greek, **κενός** *kenos*, which means *devoid of truth*. When Paul and the others came to Thessalonica (see [Acts 17](#)), they came to them with the truth, and spoke it boldly.

Boldness is the hallmark of the Christian faith. It is difficult to be bold; most of us fail often. But Paul, even though at times he was fearful, weak and trembling, his boldness for Christ shone through his failings.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." [Romans 1:16](#)

Paul spoke the truth, and the Church knew this as we will see in verse 13.

Verse 2 -

The Thessalonians knew Paul did not come to them in vain, but he reminds them about what happened before he came to Thessalonica, **even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi** ([Acts 16:19-24](#)).

The beatings they received in Philippi did not quench their boldness. **As you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God.** They didn't shrink back. They left Philippi and came boldly into Thessalonica. Paul and the others probably bore the marks of their beatings when they came to Thessalonica, **In much conflict.** Conflict does not stop the gospel of God. On the contrary, it strengthens it. The **gospel of God** he speaks about is most likely the same gospel Paul declared in [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#).

Verse 3 -

For our exhortation (An exhortation means, urging someone to do something), Paul is probably referring to the exhortation of the gospel in Philippi. The **exhortation** or the call for the people to believe was done in all truthfulness, not **from error**. KJV translates this Greek word **πλάνη** plane, not as error, but deceit. **Nor was it in deceit**, this word **δόλος** dolos, is better in the KJV as **guile** (or craftiness). "We didn't use impure motives and craftiness to deceive the Philippians into believing."

Verse 4 -

Instead of *error, uncleanness, or deceit*, Paul says of himself, and Silas and Timothy, they were **approved by God, entrusted with the gospel**. And so it is that gospel **even so we speak**. And when we talk about the gospel, we don't do it to **please men**; we speak the gospel to please **God**.

And when we speak the gospel, **God tests our hearts**. God looks at what we talk about, and he listens to it and scrutinizes our hearts. Are we speaking the truth from our **hearts**, God knows. In other words, are we being fake, phony, or real?

Verse 5 -

For neither at any time did we use flattering words. Flattery is excessive or insincere praise to further one's self-interest. Some pastors may tell their congregation what they think they want to hear so that they will give more money. Paul was not a phony.

Nor a cloak for covetousness. Paul didn't bring a fake feel-good emotion into the church so that the people might build him up. Churches are often built on the desire of the leader to make their church the biggest and the best. The word covetousness means "greedy for gain" or a "greedy desire to have more."

And, **God is our witness**. Paul was sincere, God is the ultimate Judge, and Paul was confident his message was one of truthfulness.

Verse 6 -

Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others. The tendency and temptation can be to have men give you praise and honor. No one may recognize you for your service to the Lord, but God knows all that you do; that should be enough. We don't need the praise of anyone except God.

Even Paul, who was an apostle (and it appears he is including Silas and Timothy), he could have made **demands** because there were apostles of Christ. But they didn't. Paul did not set himself as Lord over the church.

Verse 7 -

But we were gentle among you. This word **gentle** is the Greek word *epios*; It means mild or tender. This word shows up in only one other passage, [2 Timothy 2:24](#), where Paul instructs a *servant of the Lord* to be gentle unto all men. Gentleness and meekness is not weakness.

Our gentleness should be like a **nursing mother** who **cherishes her own children**. The word cherish means to keep warm. A nursing mother will do everything she can to ensure her baby is fed and is warm.

Verse 8 -

This is the only place Paul, or the New Testament uses this word **ὁμίρομαι** *himeiromai*, so it is difficult to know precisely what he means by the phrase affectionately desirous. Does he mean they were **affectionately desirous** that the Thessalonians believe in Jesus and **the gospel of God**? It appears so. And Paul seems to suggest that he, along with Silas and Timothy would have given their souls so that the Thessalonians would believe! He says **because you had become dear to us**.

What a joy to be in a church where there is such affectionate love! A church where the body of Christ is excited about the word of God! A church like the Thessalonians, where they shared the gospel with everyone. That is why this church was so dear to Paul. It was reciprocal, Paul gently shared the gospel with them, and they responded and became dear to Paul and no doubt to one another.