1 Thessalonians
Lesson 4

Women of Grace

Fall 2020

Gospel Living & Leadership

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

Day 1

Gospel Leadership (vs. 1-2)

1. What characteristics do you think define good leadership?

2. What qualities does the Bible say must be present in a godly leader?
   a. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

   b. Titus 1:6-9

3. Read Paul's defense in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. What were Paul's opponents charging him with in these verses?

4. In verse 2 Paul points out that they had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi. Give a quick overview of the circumstances surrounding their departure from Philippi and arrival at Thessalonica. See Acts 16:11-40.

5. What kind of atmosphere was Paul and his companions preaching in? What kind of preaching was it?

6. What do you learn about this bold proclaiming from Acts 9:27-28; 14:3; 2 Cor 3:12; & Eph 6:19-20?

a. Where did Paul and Silas' boldness come from? See 1 Thessalonians 1:6.

b. Do you have the same boldness to proclaim the truth to others? Why or why not?

7. Find at least two Scripture references that exhort us to be *faithful witnesses*. Have you made this your main task like Paul and his companions?

8. How does the world tend to respond when we boldly proclaim the truth? Cite one or two verses.

Day 2

Gospel Exhortation (v. 3)

1. Identity and define the three aspects of Paul's exhortation in verse 3.

2. What does Scripture say about how we can recognize false teachers?
   a. Deut. 18:20

   b. Matt. 24:24

c. Acts 20:28-30

d. Jer. 14:14

e. 2 Tim. 4:3-4

f. 2 Peter 2:1-3

3. Contrast what you discovered in question 2 with Paul's description of how they taught in Thessalonica (v. 3). What differences do you see?

4. The truth that Paul preached was "without error." What was Paul's standard for truthfulness?

   a. What should be our standard of truthfulness? Use Scripture to support your answer.

b. Is your doctrine sound? If not, what steps will you take to strengthen this area?

5. It appears that there were accusations that Paul and those who ministered with him were sexually impure in their dealings with women believers. Paul refutes this in v. 3. How important is sexual purity for a believer and why? See 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 & 6:9-11.

a. Do you have marked areas of impurity in your life, whether they are physical or in your thoughts? What will you do to turn from this sin?

6. What does the example of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 teach us about how we are to approach the teaching that we hear?

7. Should we ever simply trust what we are taught without checking it against the truthfulness of Scripture?

Day 3

Gospel Approval (v. 4)

1. The true state of Paul and his companions hearts was one of openness and honesty to the point that the omniscient God had found them worthy to declare His gospel (v. 4) What does it mean to be *approved by God*?

   a. Do you view your handling of the gospel as a stewardship given to you by God? How do you excel in this stewardship?

2. Who gives us our authority to speak the truth? Can that authority be taken away?

a. Who are we ultimately accountable to? How should that shape our gospel witness?

3. What is the connection between our words and our conduct according to the following verses?
   a. Col 3:17

   b. 1 John 3:18

   c. Luke 11:28

d. James 4:17

e. James 1:22

f. 1 Cor 13:1-3

4. From 1 Thessalonains2:4, how are you to speak?

5. What does it mean that God examines the hearts of men? (See Jeremiah 17:10, Hebrews 4:12-13, & 1 Cor. 4:5.)

6. What is your motivation for ministry? What areas do you need to work on so that you may say with the apostle Paul, “So I speak (or act), not as pleasing men, but God who examines my heart”?

Day 4

Gospel Motives (vs. 5-6)

1. What is the connection between *flattering speech* and *greed* in v. 5?

2. What is flattering speech or empty talk a mark of? See Romans 16:17-18 & Titus 1:10.

3. Define *greed*.

a. Where does greed proceed from? See Matt 7:20-23.

b. Which of the 10 Commandments does greed break? See Exodus 20:17.

c. What is the antithesis of greed? See 1 Thess 5:18; 1 Timothy 6:6, 18.

4. What does Scripture say about greed? How should a believer respond to it? See Eph 4:17-24; 5:3-5; & Col 3:5.

a. Who is our witness when we fall prey to greed?

5. Paul and his companions could have asserted their divinely delegated authority and thereby gained some prestige. Yet what were they most concerned about? See 1 Cor 10:31.

6. What are the consequences of seeking the glory of men? See Matt 6:1-2 & 6:16.

Day 5 Gospel Gentleness (vs. 7-8)

1. What did Paul and His companions prove to be (v. 7)? What illustration is given?

2. What are the sacrifices a nursing mother makes? Are these evident in your life and ministry?

3. Scripture often uses family metaphors to describe the way that believers are to relate to one another. Find two or three passages that use this language. Does this change how you view our church and your fellow believers?

4. What does it look like for someone to lead with gentleness? How can you cultivate this in your life? How can you apply this to your life? See:
   a. Galatians 6:1

   b. Ephesians 4:2

   c. 1 Timothy 6:11

   d. 2 Timothy 2:24:25

e. James 3:13

5. What kind of spirit does God call women to have in life and ministry? 1 Peter 3:1-4.

6. What things did Paul impart to the Thessalonians in verse 8 and why?

a. How did Paul feel about the Thessalonians from verse 8, 19 and 20?

7. Does this represent your heart for GraceLife? How will you seek to excel still more?

Dig Deeper

1. Why are the qualities from day 1, question 2 so important in the life of a shepherd?

2. Pray for our leaders and pray through the qualifications of an elder in day one.

3. In 1 Thess 2:8 we see Paul's pastoral heart for this young church. He speaks to them in familial language about how much he longs for them, cares for them and loves them. Take a moment to think of those in your life (past and present) who have pastored you in this way and thank God for them. Even better, take a moment and thank them!

4. Is there someone in your life that exemplifies that standard of truthfulness? Take a moment to write them a thank you card for their commitment to truth and for being a faithful example to you.

5. The word *impurity* (akatharsia, ἀκαθαρσία) literally means without purity, and in this context is particularly dealing with sexual impurity. Using historical resources, why was Paul emphasizing sexual purity?

6. Using biblical resources research the phrase *fond affection* (homeiromai, ὁμείρομαι). How does this give you a deeper understanding of Paul's love for the Thessalonians?

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