

Women of Grace

Lesson 5

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Day 1: Motherly Love (v. 9)

1. In verse 9, Paul emphasizes how they ministered to the Thessalonians. Why does he emphasize labour and hardship? How does this emphasis point back to 2:7-8?
 - a. What kind of sacrifice does *labour and hardship working night and day* entail?
 - b. Does this categorize your service in your home and to others? Are there are areas God is calling you to faithfully sacrifice for others more? Write them down, pray, and make a plan to act.
2. How did Paul support the ministry while he laboured among them? See Philippians 4:15-16 & Acts 18:3.

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3. Why was Paul so careful not to lay a financial burden on this young church? (2 Cor. 8:1-2)
 - a. What does their working tell you about Paul and his companions' character?

4. Should our expectation of those who are in full time ministry be that they will support themselves? Explain your answer using Scripture.

5. In the last part of verse 9, what did Paul see as their primary task?

Day 2: Fatherly Integrity (v. 10)

1. Paul uses three words in verse 10 to describe their conduct towards the Thessalonians: devoutly, uprightly, and blamelessly. Use a dictionary or the Literal Word App to define each word and give an example for each.
 - a. Devoutly

 - b. Uprightly

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c. Blamelessly

2. In the Old Testament, reliable testimony was established on the basis of two or three witnesses. How does Paul appeal to that principle in this passage?

a. What do these three aspects of their conduct tell us about their public and private life?

3. What do the following verses say about integrity?

a. Psalm 7:8

b. Psalm 25:21; 26:1-2, 11

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c. Prov 2:7; 10:9

4. Read Psalm 101. Paul would have known this psalm well. List all the ways David would have sought to walk in integrity. How would have Paul and the men followed David's example? How can you follow this example?

a. Write a prayer asking the Lord to give you greater integrity.

Day 3: Fatherly Instruction (v. 11)

1. In the prior verses, Paul emphasizes the motherly aspect of leadership (gentle and sacrificial). What kind of leadership does verse 11 emphasize?

a. What do Proverbs 1:8 and 4:1 tell us about fatherly leadership? Would you add anything to a "father-do" list?

b. As a father figure in the lives of the Thessalonians, how would Paul want them to respond to him? See Prov.2:1, 3:1 & 4:1.

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- c. Is this how you respond to God's Word that has been faithfully taught to you?

2. In verse 11, define the 3 ways Paul and his companions preached and spoke to the Thessalonians:
 - a. Exhorting

 - b. Encouraging

 - c. Imploring

3. Though these three aspects mostly explain the preaching, they are also applicable to us.
 - a. Do you have a balanced approach to your relationships that encompasses these three qualities? What areas do you need to grow in?

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- b. Why is encouragement so important in the life a believer, both in giving and receiving?

- c. In your relationships, are you sensitive to what a person may need from you in their walk (exhortation, encouragement, or imploring)?

Day 4: Fatherly Concern (v. 12)

1. Paul not only exhorts and encourages the church, he also implores them. What is he imploring them to remember and do in verse 12?

2. A father's goal should be the growth and maturity of his children. Paul has spoken in very familial language in this passage - how do you see his fatherly heart reflected in verse 12?

3. Give some examples of what a mature walk for a Christian should look like from your knowledge of Scripture.

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4. Paul ends this section by reminding the believers that God has not only called them to Himself, but also to walk in a particular way. Why is walking worthy of God such an important reminder for us?

5. At the end of verse 12, what two other things does God call us into?
 - a. How does remembering that this isn't our home give you comfort?

 - b. When will we see the fullness of this glory? See Revelation 22.

Day 5: A Father's Gratitude (v. 13)

1. Verse 13 begins "For this reason." What reason is Paul referring to?

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2. Although the message came through Paul and his companions, who was the message ultimately from? (See also 2 Peter 1:20-21)
 - a. Who is the ultimate author of the gospel message that we share today?

3. Do you believe that the Bible is both inerrant (without error) and infallible (incapable of being wrong)?
 - a. What would happen if Scripture was not inerrant?

 - b. What would happen if Scripture was not infallible?

 - c. Why is it important to understand that the Bible is both inerrant and infallible?

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e. Acts 20:32

f. Romans 12:2

g. Psalm 119:25

h. Psalm 19:7-10

6. In what ways are you receiving the word of God so it performs its work in you? Is this your focus as you disciple others?

7. Can human wisdom ever produce in us the same effect as the word of God? Why or why not?

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Dig Deeper

1. What is the difference between exhorting others with the commands of Scripture versus with the dictates of legalism?
 - a. Why is it important that we understand the difference?

2. Is it helpful to argue God's authority with unbelievers when witnessing to them? Why or why not?

3. Paul was thankful for the Thessalonians' reception of the Word. Is there a time set apart in your prayer life to regularly thank God for the work He is doing in others through the Word?
 - a. Set up a prayer journal specifically praying for others so you can grow in this area of thanksgiving.

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4. Spend some time meditating on Jesus Christ. In the Christian life, we must run with endurance. It is Christ who sets the example for us (Heb 12:2-3) and who is the author and perfecter of our faith. Praise Him for who He is, what He has done and what He will continue to do in us until the Day of the Lord!

5. Spend time reading Revelation 21:22- 22:21 about the glory that is to come in the eternal Kingdom.
 - a. Note all of the aspects of this present world that are not in the eternal Kingdom.

 - b. Who is outside of the Kingdom?

 - c. Note all of the aspects that are present in the Kingdom that are not yet a reality.

6. Read Chapel Library's God-Breathed Scripture:
<https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/gbscfg/godbreathed-scripture>