

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Bible Study 2

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1. “For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain” V 1.
 - After reading verse 2, what does St. Paul bring as evidence that his ministry was not in vain?

2. “For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit” V 3.
 - St. Paul is defending his preaching against three faults, what are these? What do these three faults mean? How can a servant guard his preaching against these faults?

3. “... not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts” V 4.
 - What were the evidences that St. Paul brought to prove that his ministry was not to please men as denoted in the following verses? How can the servant protect his own heart against this error?

4. “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God” V 7 – 9
 - What are the characteristics of St. Paul’s ministry as revealed in these verses?
 - What does it mean for a servant to “impart his own life” to those whom he/she serves? And what would be the hindrances against serving with this understanding?

5. “You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe” V 10
 - Why does St. Paul appeal to the Thessalonians’ testimony “you are witnesses” if he believes that God already knows?
 - How does St. Paul describe his behavior among the Thessalonians?

6. “...as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory” V 11 – 12
 - How do these verses reveal St. Paul’s understanding of the goal of the service and the means to achieve it?

7. Summarize the principles of the ministry of St. Paul based on this passage.