

“Serving From The Soul!”
1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

Introduction:

1. Last Week, We Saw From 1 Thessalonians That Paul “Aimed To Please” – That Is, His Primary Focus & Aim Was To Please The Lord!
 - For This Reason, He Preached The Gospel Of Christ!
 - He Didn’t Conceal / Hide It!
 - He Didn’t Change It!
 - He Didn’t Compromise It!
 - Because, It Is The “Gospel Of God” (2:2)!
 2. But, Paul Also Came To Help People! (Who Were Lost!)
 - In 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12, We Are Given A Glimpse Of Paul’s Tender And Affectionate Heart – The “Softer Side” Of Paul!
 - Beginning In 2:7, He Describes How He Came To The Thessalonians & How He Brought To Them The Gospel!
 - Read Text!
 - Paul Came Not To Demand From Them! (Like Support & Esteem)
 - He Came To Give To Them!
 - Paul Did Not Just Come Out Of A Sense Of Duty!
 - He Came Out With A Spirit Of Generosity!
 - The Spirit Through Which He Came Is Shown In 2:8!
 - “So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us!”
 - He Came With All His Heart!
 - It Was His Desire / Delight (“Willing”) / Devotion!
 - He Served With All His Soul!
 - He Came To “Impart” Some Gifts To Them!
 - The Gift Of The Savior! (Through The Gospel)
 - The Gift Of Himself – His Soul!
 - 3. Paul Gave Everything He Could In The Service Of This Church!
 - Not Like Jonah!
 - Like Paul, He Had A Message To Bring!
 - But He Did Not Bring It With All Of His Heart & Soul!
 - He Didn’t Love The People! (Ninevites)
 - He Didn’t Like The Results!
 - He Was “Displeased & Angry!” (Jonah 4:1)
 - No, When Paul Served, He Gave His “Own Soul!”
 - 2 Corinthians 12:15 - “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you!”
 - 4. This Teaches Us How We Ought To Love & Serve Each Other!
 - Are We Serving With Our Souls?
 - As One Writer Put It: “Such A [Service] Is Costly!” (Hiebert)
 - Anything Of Value Has A Cost!
 - No Price To Pay ~ No Effect!
 - Materially! After Thanksgiving Sales! Christmas Presents! Cost Of Money!
 - Physically! After Thanksgiving Exercise! Cost Of Effort!
 - Spiritually! Cost Of Your Self – Your Soul!
 - What Will It Take To Serve With Your Soul? There Will Be A Price!
1. ***The Cost Of Your Labor!***
 - **IE:** How Fulfilling It Is To Complete A Project, After A Lot Of Time & Toil Invested In The Work! Paul Felt The Same Way When He Worked To Share The Gospel!
 - 2:9 - “For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God!”
 - A Labor That Is Physical!

- “Labour And Travail!”
 - Paul Was A Tentmaker!
- Internal Fatigue / External Hardships!
- We Know What This Is Like In Our Careers!
- Do We Know What This Is Like In Our Church?
 - Real Service Requires: Exertion / Exhaustion!
- A Labor That Is Persistent!
 - “Night And Day!”
 - “Burnout” Was Not An Issue For Paul, Because His Heart & Soul Was Directed Toward The Right Place & The Right People!
 - We Know What “Workaholics” Are!
 - Would We Be Accused Of Being A “Servaholic”?
- A Labor That Is Purposeful!
 - Everything Paul Did Was To Help Him Share The “Gospel Of God” With Others!
 - Nothing Was Too Great A Cost For The Sake Of The Gospel!
 - Acts 20:24 - “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God!”
- Are You Serving With Your Soul?
 - If You Are, There Will Be A Cost! Of Your Labor!
 - What Are You Working For? Why?
 - What Are You Retired For? Why?
 - Is There A Purpose For Your Labor?
 - There Can Be!
 - Think About The “Labor And Travail” Of The Lord!
 - Mark 10:45 - “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!”

* What Else Will It Take To Serve With Your Soul?

2. ***The Cost Of Your Living!***

- 2:10 - “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe!”
 - Without This Kind Of Life, Your “Labor” For The Lord Will Be Ineffective & Powerless & Unfruitful!
 - **IE:** A Tree With No Strong Root Will Not Produce The Best Or The Most Fruit! Our Lives Are Like A Tree!
- A Life Of Devotion! (The Root Of Our Life & Service)
 - “Holily!”
 - The Focus Of Your Heart & Life Is To Serve & Please The Lord!
 - God Is First In Your Heart / First In Your Motives / First In Your Conduct!
 - This Takes Time With The Lord!
- A Life Of Duty! (The Trunk Of Our Life & Service - Rings)
 - “Justly!”
 - The “Performance Of The Duties Of Life!” (Hiebert)
 - In The Right Manner!
 - With The Right Attitude!
 - This Takes Transparency Before Others!
- A Life Of Decency! (The Leaves Of Our Life & Service - Green)
 - “Unblameably!”
 - Free From Fault Or Defect!
 - Acts 24:16 - “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!”
 - This Takes Toil!
- This Kind Of Life Is What It Takes To Serve With Your Soul!
 - And This Kind Of Life Is What It Takes To See The Fruit From That Service!

- Are You Serving With Your Soul?
- If You Are, There Will Be A Cost! Of Your Life!
- Think About The Life Of The Lord!

* What Else Will It Take To Serve With Your Soul?

3. *The Cost Of Your Language!*

- 2:11 - “As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children!”
 - There Was Consistency In What Paul Said!
 - He “Practiced What He Preached!”
 - There Was Concern In What Paul Said!
 - “As A Father!”
 - Not Always Popular / But Always Important!
 - And So, He Spoke:
- Words Of Challenge!
 - “Exhorted!”
 - To Come Along Side, And Aid Them In Their Walk With Christ! To Teach & Train About How To Respond To The Gospel & How To Live According To The Gospel!
 - Discipleship! “Every One Of You!”
- Words Of Comfort!
 - “Comforted!”
 - To Encourage Them, Especially Through The Difficult Pressures They Were Experiencing & Would Experience!
- Words Of Commitment!
 - “Charged!”
 - Paul Was A Witness To What He Received From The Lord!
 - He Was “Put In Trust With The Gospel!” (2:4)
 - So, He Declared The Truth To Them!
 - But, He Did So “In Love!” (Ephesians 4:15)
- These Are The Words That We Must Bring!
 - This Is The Purpose Of Our Labor!
 - This Is The Purpose Of Our Living!
- Are You Serving With Your Soul?
 - If You Are, There Will Be A Cost! Of Your Language!
 - Think About The Language Of The Lord!
 - Sometimes Words Of Challenge!
 - Sometimes Words Of Comfort!
 - All The Time Words Of Commitment!

Conclusion:

1. Serving The Lord & Others With Your Soul Is Very Sacrificial & Costly!
 - It Will Cost You Much Labor! It Will Cost You Your Very Life! It Will Cost You In Your Language – You Will Say Things That May Be Very Difficult & Even Dangerous!
 - But, It’s The Most Worth-While Thing In The World To Do!
2. 2:12 - “That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory!”
 - This Is Why Paul Served With All His Heart & Soul!
 - This Was His Aim & Purpose! Ours Also!
 - “That Ye Would Walk Worthy Of God!”
 - When God Uses Your Labor, Your Life & Your Language – Your Selfless & Sacrificial Service From Your Very Soul – God Uses This To Bring People Into This Kind Of Walk / Relationship With The Lord!
 - They Will Recognize His Sovereignty! “Kingdom!”
 - They Will Reflect His Splendor! “Glory!”
 - Doesn’t This Make “Serving From The Soul” Worth It!
3. We Must Serve The Lord & Each Other With Our Souls!

- There Will Be A Cost For This Kind Of Service!
- What Price Have You Paid?

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