



## Life In Community 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8

### Review

- Thessalonians received the gospel in much suffering.
- Suffering common in Christian history. God grants it (Phil. 1:29)

[2 Corinthians 1:8-9](#) For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

- God will allow, grant suffering...that we might rely on Him!

**1 Thessalonians 2:5-8** For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives — God is our witness — 6 and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others. 7 Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children. 8 We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

### Proclamation of the Gospel in Community

- **No flattering speech.** Are you an encourager, or a flatterer? One is good, the other, not.
- Flattery means “meaningless.” Flattery serves the speaker, not the hearer.
- **No desire to make you feel worse about yourself than you should**--worse than others, worse in Christ. But no desire to make you feel better than you should, in your sin.
- “As you know.”
- **Ad hominem attacks during debates not fair, but do work.** “If his character is bad, his message is bad.” Paul knows this, and guards his character.

- **No greedy motives.**
- **“God is our witness.”**

**Psalms 139:23-24** Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

- Our reputation with people matters. Our reputation with God matters.
- **Your character lends credibility to your message.**
- Some of you are not seeing in your sharing of the gospel because your character stinks.

### **Demonstration of the Gospel in Community**

- **The gospel is not only taught but caught!**
- **Don't seek glory from people.**
  - Are you ok serving people...and not getting recognition?  
**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
  - The goal is not to get people to fall in love with you, or Logos, but God.
- **Not a burden on people.**
  - It's not a contract, quid pro quo. We serve without expecting return.
  - **Rev. 22:12(NIV)** Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.
  - You WILL get repaid...from the Lord!
  - Your service, your giving...is laying up treasures in heaven for yourselves! This is a promise from King Jesus.
- **Gentle, like a nursing mother.**
  - Involves care. If you don't feel this, pray for it. You may be too self-absorbed.
  - But Mommas are fierce and protective, too. Paul was a tough man, ready to attack wolves for the sake of the sheep.
- **Care. So much.**
  - Paul really, really cared. Went through much suffering and affliction for the body of Christ.
- **Sharing your own life.**
  - **John 15:12-13** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
  - Where are you laying your “life” down?
  - Money. Time. Adoption. Vacations. Caring for elderly/invalid/hurting.
- **“Become dear.”** Beloved, favorite.

**What does this kind of life look like?**

- **You will not find life until you give it away.**