

# Home Group Helps

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

### *Living in the Light of His Return: Conduct that Counts*

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup> but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. <sup>3</sup> For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit; <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness-- <sup>6</sup> nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

**I. Conduct that Counts (v.1)** – <sup>1</sup> For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

**II. Conduct with Courage (v.2)** – <sup>2</sup> but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

**III. Conduct Commended by God (v.3-4)** – <sup>3</sup> For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit; <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

**IV. Conduct that is Correct (v.5-6)** – <sup>5</sup> For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness-- <sup>6</sup> nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- How did you come to know Christ?

#### 2. Observation Question(s):

- Solomon begins Ecclesiastes with “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity” (1:2) and closes with “The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments” (12:3-4).
- What makes for a “vain” (i.e., empty) life and what makes for a meaningful life?

#### 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul tells the Thessalonians that his ministry to them “was NOT in vain” (v.1).
- How can Paul make that confident claim (see the text and the sermon outline)?
- What are some of the accusations leveled against Paul (see the text and the sermon outline)?
- Paul says that he spoke the gospel not as pleasing men. What does he mean by this statement?
- What does “man pleasing” look like in ministry?
- How can ministry be “God pleasing” and not “man pleasing?”

**4. Reflection Question(s):**

- How might the ministry of our church look more like the ministry of the Apostle Paul in Thessalonica?

**5. Application Question(s):**

- How might you “fear God and keep His commandments” (Eccl. 12:3-4) this week?

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