

The Character of Gospel Ministry

1 Thessalonians 1:5b, 2:1-12

Paul calls the Thessalonians to testify to his pure motives, to his honest methods and to his righteous manner of life. (v5b, 2:1)

4 Lines of Evidence That Testify the Character of Paul's Gospel Ministry:

1.) The Circumstance of His Arrival (v. 2)

2.) The Source of His Exhortation (v. 3-4)

His Exhortation Was Not

- A.) From Error
- B.) From Uncleaness
- C.) From Deceit

*"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. **2** But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Instead His Exhortation Was

- A.) Was Proclaimed Through an Open Statement of Truth
- B.) Was Approved by God
- C.) Was Commissioned to please God, not man

*"...the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. **12** For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ"*

Galatians 1:11-12

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4

3.) The Delivery of His Message (v. 5-8)

Read verses 5-6

Their Delivery Was Not:

- A.) Full of Flattering Words
- B.) A Cloak of Covetousness
- C.) Seeking the Glory of Men

Instead Their Delivery Was:

- A.) Gentle
- B.) Affectionately Longing

4.) The Openness of His Life (v. 9-12)

- A.) His Labor (v. 9)
- B.) His Conduct (v. 10)
 - I.) Devout
 - II.) Just
 - III.) Blameless
- C.) His Instruction (v. 11-12)

The Big Idea:

Paul's motives, methods, and manner evidenced the trustworthiness of Paul's message.

How Do We Apply This?

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

John 14:26

"how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,"

Hebrews 2:3

"having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone"

Ephesians 2:20

Our Application:

- 1.) Recognizing Faith is Not Blind
- 2.) History Matters.
- 3.) Knowing Your Place in the Story is Important