

I. Persistent -1 Thess. 2:-1-2

1. “You know” - not something they could not testify for themselves (**verse 1**)
2. Brothers and sisters - they were family
3. “Results” are mentioned
 - spiritual transformation
 - Rea -what “results” should we be looking for?- growth? - other?
 - results are seen as growing influence around the world
 - Rea -Paul mentions “fruit” in Galatians 5
4. Previously treated “outrageously” (**verse 2**)
 - strong opposition
 - they “dared” to tell the gospel
 - strong opposition moved to share more
 - Rea -the temptation under opposition is to simply be quiet and hope the enemy will go away... he never does
 - Rea -if they have persecuted me, they will persecute you - Jesus
 - the people of Thessalonica refused to quit
 - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Many have quit in the face of the opposition of a virus
 2. Sometimes our own sinfulness makes us quit
 - what makes you quit?
 3. What is our “opposition” today?

II. Gentle - 1 Thess. 2:3-7

1. False teachers - appeal to the pride of persons (**verse 3**)
 - drawing large crowds or impure motives
 - Paul had the right motive
 - Rea -so... what IS the right motive?
 - they were trying to “trick” the flock
 - Rea -almost anyone can get a crowd... does that mean we are “right?”
2. We speak as those approved of God (**verse 4**)
 - Rea -in verse 4 (by contrast) we are taught what ought to be our motives
 - A. “Approved” of God to be “entrusted” with the gospel
 - Rea -what a trust!
 - B. Paul refused to move away from the gospel
 - Rea C. In the church’s history it has strayed from the centrality of the gospel
 - into financial prosperity
 - into angels
 - into church history
 - into politics and political movements
 - D. His goal was not to please people but God
 - Rea -pleasing people always means numbers... numbers of people in the pew and numbers of dollars in the plate
 - E. God tests our hearts... to see if we are going to please people, or God
 - Rea -do you think God tests us? - there it is - verse 4

3. We never used: - flattery - we never got into greed (**verse 5**)
- you “know” these things
- Rea -I guess even then people saw the church as a meal ticket - out of a job?? - well I could always preach. The church is often seen as a “market” for stuff. Politicians show up to garner votes.
4. His motives were right (**verse 6**)
- he was not in it for “praise” of men
 - he was not in it to simply use his “authority”
 - he was not in it for the money - a companion passage is 1 Cor. 9:7-14
- Rea -“power” and “control” are huge problems in God’s local church
5. We were like a mother among you (**verse 7**)
- like we were your mother caring for her children
- Rea -Paul was close to his people... do you think he’d have visited them in the hospital if they had a need?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Motives can become tainted and lead us off the path
 - leadership is fraught with these type dilemmas
 - deacons can get into it because they like the applause of men
 - pastors can do the same - and staff
 2. In today’s local church many times the leadership does not have a love for the flock - so what is their motivation?
 - past churches did not offer a good salary... today they usually do - so, how do you know if staff are “in it for the money?”
 3. If the apostle Paul’s motive was wrong... then he would’ve taught them that they too, might have a wrong motive

III. Blameless - 1 Thess 2:8-12

1. We loved you (**verse 8**)
 - so much - we shared our lives with you
 - they were “delighted” to share their lives
 - we “cared for you”

Rea -when Paul cared for them they knew it - people can tell if you love them... and they can tell if you don’t
2. Paul and company had “toil and hardship” (**verse 9**)
 - day and night - to not be a financial burden on you

Rea -by-vocational ministers have to do two jobs to serve
3. Paul called upon them to witness - he also called upon God to witness (**verse 10**)
 - this is integrity
 - his ministry could stand the searchlight of “fruit”

Rea -you KNOW a tree by its fruit - not by what it says. Anyone can talk a good game.
- Rea 4. Blameless - a qualification for deacons and pastors
5. We dealt with you as a father (**verse 11**)
 - a mother in verse 7, and a father here

Rea -speaks to his passionate love for his “church members”

6. How did that passionate love manifest itself? (**Verse 12**)

-encouraging

-comforting

-urging

-all in the spiritual realm... lives worthy of God

Rea -he cared about their spiritual lives... more than anything else

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. An emphasis in the writings of Paul on “people”

-often today, church is about the show, or the entertainment -not the people

2. Often today, we don’t know our “people” - that’s a huge failure!

3. Does your pastor know your name?

4. Prayer for people - on Wednesday night prayer meeting - should not be viewed as a “burden” - and will not be if you truly love the people

Bob Bunn - SS Lesson for 3-13-22