

Our Glory and Joy

1 Thessalonians 2

At the beginning of last week's study, we learned that Paul's enemies were spreading lies about him in Thessalonica. In this part of the letter, Paul will take some time to set the record straight.

1. Read Acts 16:22-24 and describe what happened to Paul and the other missionaries traveling with him in Philippi just prior to their coming to Thessalonica.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6.

Vain – metaphorically, of endeavors, labors, acts which result in nothing, fruitless, without effect in results or ministry

2. Read Acts 17:1-4 and describe the outcome of Paul's time and effort in Thessalonica. (v. 4)

3. Read Acts 17:5-10a and describe what happened next.

Upside down – to upset, unsettle, minds by disseminating religious error

4. Paul and his fellow missionaries had just experienced a brutal and violent flogging in Philippi. Anyone would have understood if they wanted to lay low for a while and recover, but what did they do instead? (1 Thessalonians 2:2b)

Bold – in reliance on one to take courage

To Speak – literally, all speech; with boldness and confidence

5. Using the definitions provided, explain how they were able to press on spreading the Gospel, while still nursing fresh wounds.

6. **THINK:** Are you currently facing situations where you need to rely on the Lord to take courage? How can you follow Paul's example in your own situation?

7. In Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, he asks the believers to pray for him. Read Ephesians 6:19-20. What did Paul ask them to pray for, and what were his circumstances at that time?

8. **THINK:** Can you think of someone who is currently in need of boldness (reliance on one to take courage)? If so, record their name and circumstances below as a reminder to pray for them this week.

9. What accusations were being made about Paul's preaching (exhortation)? (1 Thessalonians 2:3)

Error – mental straying, i.e. error, wrong opinion relative to morals or religion

Uncleanness – in a moral sense, used of impure motives

Deceit – bait, a lure, snare

10. What was Paul's defense against these accusations, and why could he be confident in it? (v. 4-6)

Cloak for Covetousness – a pretext or pretended cause for a greedy desire to have more

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.

11. How does Paul describe their ministry work in Thessalonica? (v. 7-8)

12. What was the motive behind Paul's denying ministry support and choosing instead to labor day and night to support themselves? (v. 9)

13. **THINK:** Why do you think Paul may have decided to forgo ministry support at times while accepting it at others?

14. Keep in mind that Paul was up against inciters who were trying to discredit him while gaining support for themselves. How is the behavior of Paul and those with him described in verse 10?

15. What three words does Paul use to summarize their time and activities in Thessalonica? (v. 11)

16. **THINK:** On two separate occasions, Paul stated that the believers knew all of this to be true. If that was the case, why do you think Paul was laying out this defense?

17. What was the goal of Paul's efforts in Thessalonica? (v. 12)

Walk Worthy – to regulate one's life, to conduct oneself suitably; worthily, in a manner worthy of God

18. Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and describe what it looks like to walk worthy of God.

19. According to Colossians 1:9-10a, what must we have in order to walk worthy?

20. What are three characteristics of someone who is walking worthy of God? (Colossians 1:10)

Paul sets forth an amazing example to follow. He took the call on his life seriously. He worked hard to support himself when he was able and was willing to accept support when it was needed. He was humble and never took advantage of anyone or any church. He conducted himself in a manner that reflected Christ and brought honor and glory to God, all out of his deep love for God and His people.

21. Read the following verses and record what you learn about how we should handle and share the Gospel.

Galatians 6:9	
Ephesians 5:1-2	
2 Timothy 4:2	
2 Timothy 2:15	

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16.

22. Paul's experience in Thessalonica was one that he looked back on with gratitude and thankfulness. What was he thankful for? (v. 13)

Welcome – to receive favorably, give ear to, embrace, make one's own, approve, not to reject

23. What does the Word of God do for those who believe? (v. 13)

24. Describe the purpose of this work being done in you. (Philippians 2:13 NKJV, NLT, and AMP versions) Where do you see this work being done in your life?

25. What did the church in Thessalonica have in common with the church in Judea? (v. 14)

26. The bulk of the persecution faced by the believers in Thessalonica came from Jews living in the area. We read earlier how they responded to Paul's preaching in Thessalonica. Read Acts 17:13 and record what happened when Paul left Thessalonica and went to Berea.

27. Most religious Jews were strict adherents to the law. What principles from Exodus 23:2 did they fail to apply to their own lives and this situation?

28. Read the following verses and briefly describe the actions/outcomes of each mob.

Matthew 27:20	
Mark 15:13-14	
Acts 17:5	

29. **THINK:** What do you think was at the root of the mob mentality in Thessalonica?

30. **THINK HARDER:** How can we stir up our own mobs, and what should we do instead?

31. With two opposing religious views, it may have been difficult for some to reconcile who was right, Paul or the Jews. What evidence did Paul bring against the Jews, and what was the verdict according to God? (v. 15)

32. In verse 16, Paul brings another charge against these Jews, “forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved.” In Acts 21, Paul was arrested in the Temple. In Acts 22, Paul gave his defense. How did the Jews react when Paul told them God had sent him to preach to the Gentiles? (Acts 22:22-30)

33. What would happen when the measure of their sins was filled up? (1 Thessalonians 2:16)

In 70A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans, and the nation of Israel ceased to exist. The Temple and everything these Jews held dear were gone.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20.

34. How did Paul demonstrate his faith in God to ultimately prevail over Satan's schemes? (v. 17)

35. What was Paul's source of hope, joy, and rejoicing? (v. 19-20)

36. Before answering these questions, take a moment to pray. Ask the Lord to show you the truth, then answer the following questions.

What is my source/s of hope? _____

What is my source/s of joy? _____

What is my source/s of rejoicing? _____

37. Read the following verses and record the source of hope, joy, and rejoicing in each.

Sources of Hope	
Psalm 31:24	
Psalm 119:49	
Lamentations 3:26	
Sources of Joy	
Job 8:19	
Psalm 21:1	
Jeremiah 15:16	
Philippians 1:25	
3 John 1:4	
Sources of Rejoicing	
Psalm 19:8	
Acts 5:41	
Colossians 2:5	

Like Paul, we should remember Who is ultimately in control. We might not know how, but we can rest assured God will have His way. Even in the most hopeless of situations, we can know that our God is bigger than any situation or circumstance.

A Closer Look at Walking Worthy

1 Thessalonians 2:12

As we learned, the goal of Paul's efforts in Thessalonica was that they would walk worthy of God. What a beautiful example Paul gives in his love for the people he had been called to serve. His ambition was not to just preach the Gospel, move on, and then hope all would go well. Instead, it was to love them as a father does his own children with a deep concern for their spiritual well-being. (v. 11)

38. Colossians 1:10 is our theme verse for the Women's Fellowship at Calvary Castle Rock. Our theme statement is to **Walk Worthy**. Look up the verse and write it down.

39. To walk is *to make one's way, to progress, to regulate one's life*. It is the daily conduct of one's life. Think about this definition regarding your relationship with God. What does it mean to **walk** with Him?

40. The word worthy means *suitably, worthily, in a manner worthy of*. Again, think of your relationship with God. According to the following verses, how can your walk (making your way, progressing) with God be worthy of Him?

1 Peter 1:13-16

1 John 5:3

Ephesians 4:25-32

41. Contemplate the above Scriptures. Are you walking in a manner worthy of God? Does your life proclaim who He is and that you are a follower of Him? If so, write down some examples. If not, what is hindering you from walking worthy?

42. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:12. To what does God call us to? How is this a good motivator to walk worthy and fulfill the calling to love God and others?

43. Scripture calls us to walk in many ways. According to the following verses, in what ways are we to walk?

Romans 6:4 _____

Romans 8:1 _____

2 Corinthians 5:7 _____

Ephesians 2:10 _____

Ephesians 5:2 _____

Ephesians 5:15 _____

Colossians 4:5 _____

There are many more verses about how we are to walk. Feel free to look them all up if you desire further study!

We pray that you will walk worthy of the Lord and fulfill your calling to love Him with all your heart so you can serve Him by loving others. Take some time to reread Colossians 1:10, review the definitions of walk and worthy, review the verses you have read, and commit to a walk worthy of our gracious, loving, almighty God.
