

## Paul Writes to the Thessalonians

January 22, 2017



Scripture Lesson found in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 **This is an excerpt from the message.**

**Ver. 6: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.** He avoided ambition and vain-glory. They expected neither to be enriched by them, nor caressed and adored, and called Rabbi by them. His ambition **was to obtain the honor which comes from God. John 5:44.** Being burdensome meant, using your authority and expecting greater esteem, and demanding wages.

**Ver. 7: But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.** In these words the apostle reminds the Thessalonians of his conversation among them. The gentleness of his behavior. He showed great mildness and tenderness. Such a behavior greatly recommends religion and is most agreeable to God's gracious dealing with sinners and the gospel. Though he abhorred flattery, yet we most condescending to all men. **He became all things to all men.** He showed the kindness and care of a nurse that cherishes her children. This is the way to win people, rather than to rule with might. **The servants of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, and patient. 2 Tim. 2:24**

**Ver. 8: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.** The apostle had a most affectionate love to their persons, and sought them, not theirs; themselves, not their goods. It was their spiritual and eternal welfare and salvation that he was earnestly desirous of. They were stood ready to do them good, **willingly imparting to them, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls.** See the manner of Paul's preaching, he spared no pains. He was willing to run hazards, and venture his soul, or life, in preaching the gospel. **He was willing to spend and be spent** in the service of men's souls.

**Ver. 9: For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for laboring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.** With their bodily labor they worked to prevent their charge, or that his ministry might not be expensive and burdensome to them. He denied himself the liberty he had of taking wages from the churches. He also labored as a tent-maker, that he might get his own bread.

Those who proclaim Christ to others should be bold, sincere, and gentle, and live a life consistent with the principles of Christianity.