



## FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor David M. Evangelista ~ 2.01.09 ~ Studies in Thessalonians 2:2-12

### "All Things New Series" ~ "Helping the Baby Grow"

*In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, we learn of Paul as being "The Faithful Steward", "The Loving Mother" and "The Concerned Father." "You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you His gospel in spite of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never use flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you." (Verses 1-6).*

Chapter one introduces Paul as an evangelist. In this second chapter, we see him as a pastor. It explains how the great apostle cared for the new believers in the churches that he founded. Paul reminded these believers of the kind of ministry he had as he taught and cared for the young church.

First we see Paul as "**The Faithful Steward.**" The apostle had been put in trust with the gospel. Paul saw himself as a steward of God's message. The message of the gospel is a treasure God has entrusted to us. We must confess it so it will multiply and produce "spiritual dividends" to God's glory. This gospel is the most important quality a steward possesses (See 1 Corinthians 4:1-2). A steward may not be popular in the eyes of men; but he dare not

be unfaithful in the eyes of the Lord. When we see the characteristics of Paul's ministry, we understand what faithfulness means. According to verses 1&2 of our text, Paul and Silas had been beaten and humiliated at Philippi—yet they came to Thessalonica and preached. Paul had "holy boldness" and he held back nothing, yet the churches in those cities prospered. In verse three, we find he assured them that his message was true.

Paul as "**The Loving Mother.**" *"But we were gentle among you like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."* Babes in Christ sensed Paul's tender loving care as he nurtured them. He was like a loving mother who cared for her children. Paul did not turn his converts over to babysitters; he made sacrifices and cared for them himself. He also nourished them as we observe in verse 7: *"Even as a nursing mother cherishes her own children."*

*1 Thessalonians 2:9*

Paul as "**The Concerned Father.**" (See verses 9-12). The Spirit of God used the Word of God in Paul's ministry, and many people in Thessalonica were born again into the family of God. Paul pointed out three of his duties as the spiritual father to the Thessalonian believers.

**#1). His work.** *"Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of*  
*(over)*

*God to you."* Paul still made tents and paid his own way. No one could accuse him of using his ministry for his own profit.

**#2). Paul's walk.** *"You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed."* 1 Thessalonians 2:10. None of the members of the assembly could accuse Paul of being a poor example. His life was holy! In Greek, this means to *"carefully fulfill the duties God gives to a person."*

**# 3). Paul's words.** As a father must not only support the family, he must teach the family by being a good example! He must also take time to speak to the family members. He knew the importance of teaching the truths that would help them grow in the Lord. The Lord Jesus was never too busy to speak to individuals, even though He preached to great multitudes. Paul not only made them feel better, but he made them want to do better! It is a wonderful thing when a spiritual father can encourage and help his children out of his own experience with the Lord. *Psalm 34:11: "Come children harken unto me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord."*

**Today's challenge:** We need to be faithful stewards, loving mothers, and concerned fathers. No wonder the church at Thessalonica prospered in spite of persecution and shared the gospel with others for miles around! May we follow that example! They had been *spiritually* nurtured and parented and this is a good example for us to follow.

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