

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

I. TRANSPARENCY (v. 1-7)

1. EXHORTATION (v. 1-3)

- “Coming not in vain”, not an empty act
- Paul suffered in Philippi
- Paul suffered in conflict **with** them
- Spoke boldly in “conflict” (v.2)
 - Same word as in Greek games
 - Struggle, battling for the upper hand, victory
- “Exhortation” (v.3), 3 comments
 - Not of deceit (error, delusion, false judgement)
 - Not of uncleanness (morally unclean, lewdness)
 - Not of guile (Gr. root = to bait, deceive)

2. EXALTATION (v. 4-7)

- What is it then? (v. 4), 3 things
 - Approved (tested, allowed)
 - Entrusted (by faith, belief)
 - Right handling of the gospel (2 Tim 2:15)
- “Not as pleasing men” (v. 4), idea of softening of the heart
- Focus should be on God, why?
 - God “tests” our hearts, same word as “entrusted”
 - Continual action, replenish and refresh
- Paul did not come under false pretenses (v. 5), 3 points
 - No flattery, “as you know”
 - No “cloak of covetousness”
 - Covet = to have more
 - Cloak = a pretext, outward show
 - No seeking of glory
- Paul never used his position for authority, Apostle Paul

- Paul never made demands, burden of pressure or weight
- "Gentle among you" (v. 7)
 - As a nurse, caregiver (mother)
 - Contrary to the 3 points above

II. TRAINING (v. 8-12)

1. Paul's WISH

- "Affectionately longing"
 - Idea that is ongoing, continuous
 - Paul pours his soul into them
- "Labor and toil", always occurs together
 - THE labor, Gr. to beat, force behind the labor
 - THE toil, Gr. labor, the work done
- Paul labored night and day (v. 9)
 - "Laboring", idea of working in a field
 - Manual labor so not to be a burden

2. Their WITNESS

- "Witnesses" to their conduct (v. 10), 3 steps in succession
 - Devoutly (right relationship w/God)
 - Justly (deserved righteousness)
 - Blamelessly (no blame)
- Witnessed conduct among the believers as pastor
- "As you know", (v. 11), 3 phases as father
 - Exhorted, Gr. **parakaleo** = come along side
 - Comforted, speak kind words
 - Charged, to be a witness (same word)
- V. 12, to have a walk worthy of God, THE called, keeps calling

III. TESTING (v. 13-16)

1. EXAMINE their actions (v. 13)

- “For this reason”
 - Continual thanks to God, we also
 - Paul and church happy how they received the word of truth
 - Inner working, the energy that comes from the Word

2. EXAMPLE to others (v. 14-16)

- “Became imitators of the churches”
 - Same form as above, a noun
 - Suffering the same fate as the other churches
 - Believers all encounter persecution from all sometimes (believers/ non-believers)
- They don’t please God (v. 15)
 - Forbidding the gospel, as Paul was before
 - Idea in Gr., to cut off, weaken, clipped
 - Kicking against the goads
- Filling up the measure of their sins
 - Idea of making complete
 - Continually doing what is not right in the eyes of God
 - Wrath comes to completion, the end

IV. TREASURE (v. 17-20)

1. Paul’s EAGERNESS (v. 17-18)

- “Been taken away”
 - Paul like a parent, separated from children
 - Gr. root **apo** = from & **orphanos** = orphans
 - Paul didn’t use words to indicate “left behind” or “separate”
 - Personal with Paul, parent imagery
- A short separation, indeterminate time
 - “Presence” = “Face”, same word, eyeball to eyeball
 - Heart is still very much with them, seat of emotion
- “More eagerly” (v. 17)
 - Exceeding measure, overflowing, abundant

- Rom 5:17, "abundance of grace"
 - 2 Cor 8:2, "abundance of joy"
 - "With great desire"
 - "desire" Gr. **epi** = in & **thumeeah** = the mind
 - Gr. Root **thumeeah** = **thumos**, passion / wrath
 - Tremendous longing, it's all Paul could think about
 - Imagine as parent being separated from kids without control
 - (v. 18) Satan "hindered"
 - Idea of being cut down, not just something in the road
 - Gal 5:7
2. Paul's EXCELLENCE (v. 19–20)
- "What is our ___ ?"
 - Each word is an assertion of quality (3 elements)
 - Hope, desire of good w/expectation of obtaining it
 - Joy, enjoyment, gladness, Heb 12:2
 - Crown, Gr. **stephanos** = crown of victory, wreath
 - "Crown of rejoicing" (v. 19)
 - Paul's boasting of the church
 - Pinnacle of boasting, pride
 - Turned from false gods to the true God
 - The treasure put before the Lord
 - The presence/coming of the Lord
 - Gr. **parousia**, def art "THE coming"
 - Context determines what coming/presence
 - The rapture
 - (v. 20) "Our glory and joy"
 - Def art & predicate on both, Paul driving home the point
 - Put forward as specimens, examples to others
 - Paul's crowning achievement
 - Brings him parental joy