

1 Thessalonians 2

Introduction:

1. Review the Context
2. Paul reminds them of the Characteristics of his ministry

Discussion:

I. Paul's coming was not in vain (1-6)

A. It was not in Vain

1. They came in the midst of persecution
2. They came bringing the truth in a sincere way, not by way of deceit
3. Came with the boldness of God.

B. They were approved by God.

1. Paul defends the authority which he received from God
2. God was their witness, did not come for any of the reasons some had said they did.
3. Paul was entrusted with the gospel. (Paul had been given gifts but he had to use them wisely. Cf. 1 Corinthians 14:32)
4. Paul said, as apostles of Christ, he could have asserted more authority and respect from them but he didn't. He didn't want them to think that because he didn't, that he couldn't.

II. He came like a Parent to them (7-14)

A. Like a Nursing Mother

1. Imagine the time and effort, a nursing mother puts into their children. This is also some of the most crucial years of a baby's life, to get fed properly and get the right nutrition. Paul did that for them spiritually
2. Gentle, tenderly cares, fond affection, very dear to us... words of a mother
3. This ought to have gained him some love and respect from them

B. Like a Father would treat his own children

1. He also showed them the fatherly side of his coming
2. Labor and hardship, working so they were not burdened, exhorting, encouraging, and imploring each one as a Father would his own child.
3. So that they would learn to walk pleasing to God (a parents role).

C. Paul thanks God for them

1. Received the words as the word of God (1 Peter 4:11)
2. They went through the same persecutions that the Jewish Christians did in Judea
3. It encouraged Paul and it would have been a huge encouragement to them as well.

III. Paul wants to see them again (18-20)

A. Paul was forced to leave them (Acts 17)

1. In person, not in spirit- Paul's teachings and example was still there with them
2. But Paul wanted to see them in person, not just in spirit

B. He wanted to come back but couldn't at that time

1. He was hindered by Satan (Satan used the Jews to prevent him).
2. It seems he actually tried several times to get back
3. Whether or not Paul saw them in person, to see them at the second coming would make him even more joyful than to see them in person
4. They were Paul's glory and joy!

Conclusion:

1. Paul continued his letter of joy and appreciation to the church at Thessalonica.
2. He had to defend his reasoning's for coming to them because of something that had been said.
3. Paul uses the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ to encourage this church in midst of persecution.