

## Service for the Master

**1 Thessalonians 2:8-12 HCSB** We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. **9** For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. **11** As you know, like a father with his own children, **12** we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

I would like to bring to you the same message that our brother Paul brought to the Thessalonian and Corinthian churches. He was willing to use his own life as a personal example; was willing to live by the same standard he used to judge others. He told the Corinthians:

- **1 Corinthians 15:58 HCSB** Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Let's carefully go through 1 Thessalonians 2 and see what we can glean from our brother Paul about service for the Messiah, shall we?

### **I. It is not without results** (1 Thessalonians 2:1)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:1 HCSB** For you yourselves know, brothers, that our visit with you was not without result.

### **II. It is not easy** (1 Thessalonians 2:2)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:2 HCSB** On the contrary, after we had previously suffered and been outrageously treated in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.

A. It can involve SUFFERING--had suffered (1 Thessalonians 2:2a)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:2a HCSB** On the contrary, after we had previously suffered ...

B. It can involve SHAME—outrageously treated (1 Thessalonians 2:2b).

- **1 Thessalonians 2:2 HCSB** ... after we had previously suffered and been outrageously treated ...

C. It can involve STRIFE—great opposition (1 Thessalonians 2:2c).

- **1 Thessalonians 2:2 HCSB** ...we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.

D. It can involve SACRIFICE--working night and day (1 Thessalonians 2:9).

- **1 Thessalonians 2:9 HCSB** For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you.

### **III. It is to be above reproach** (1 Thessalonians 2:3-6)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:3-6 HCSB** For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive. **4** Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but rather God, who examines our hearts. **5** For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives--God is our witness-- **6** and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others.

A. It is not to be DEVIANT--not of error (1 Thessalonians v.3a).

- [1 Thessalonians 2:3 HCSB](#) For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive.

B. It is not to be DIRTY--nor of impurity (1 Thessalonians v.3b).

- [1 Thessalonians 2:3 HCSB](#) For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive.

C. It is not to be DECEPTIVE—no intent to deceive (1 Thessalonians v.3c).

- [1 Thessalonians 2:3 HCSB](#) For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive.

D. It is not to be DISHONORABLE (1 Thessalonians v. 5).

- [1 Thessalonians 2:5 HCSB](#) For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives--God is our witness--

E. It is not to be DESIGNING (1 Thessalonians v.6)

- [1 Thessalonians 2:6 HCSB](#) and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others.

**IV. It is a privilege—*entrusted*** (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

- [1 Thessalonians 2:4 HCSB](#) Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but rather God, who examines our hearts.

**V. It is not a show—*didn't seek glory*** (1 Thessalonians 2:6)

- [1 Thessalonians 2:6 HCSB](#) and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others.

**VI. It should not be harsh** (1 Thessalonians 2:7-9)

- [1 Thessalonians 2:7-9 HCSB](#) Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children. **8** We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. **9** For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you.

A. It should be GENTLE (1 Thessalonians v.7).

- [1 Thessalonians 2:7 HCSB](#) Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children.

B. It should be AFFECTIONATE (1 Thessalonians v.8).

- [1 Thessalonians 2:8 HCSB](#) We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

C. It should be PERSONAL (1 Thessalonians v.8).

- **1 Thessalonians 2:8 HCSB** We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

**VII. It should be exemplary** (1 Thessalonians 2:10)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:10 HCSB** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers.
  - A. In our SEPARATION - HOLINESS
  - B. In our DEALINGS - JUSTICE
  - C. In our CONDUCT - UNBLAMEABLE

**VIII. It should be exhortative** (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 cp Hebrews 10:24; Titus 3:14).

- **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 HCSB** As you know, like a father with his own children, **12** we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- **Hebrews 10:24 HCSB** And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,
- **Titus 3:14 HCSB** And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works for cases of urgent need, so that they will not be unfruitful.