

THE PREACHER'S LIFE AND WORK

I Thessalonians 2: 1 – 20

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INTRODUCTION

1. Chapter two of I Thessalonians sets forth the Preacher's life and work.
 2. Paul's work in Thessalonica was not fruitless – I Thess. 2:1.
 3. No one desires to be a failure in what he does, and preachers are no different.
 4. What made Paul a success will make a preacher TODAY a success.
- I. **IN THE LIFE OF A PREACHER THERE MUST BE A WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST.**
- a. Paul said he, and those with him, were shamefully entreated at Philippi – I Thess. 2:2.
 - i. At Philippi Paul and Silas were beaten and cast into prison – Acts 16: 16 – 24.
 - b. Paul told Timothy, *"endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist"* -- 2 Tim. 4:5.
 - c. He told Timothy to *"endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"* – 2 Tim. 2:3.
 - d. He said, *"All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* – 2 Tim. 3: 12.
 - e. The Prophets of old are our examples of suffering affliction – James 5:10.
 - f. Paul was willing to die for the name of Christ – Acts 21: 13.
 - g. Preachers must remember the servant is not greater than his Lord – John 15:20.
- II. **THE PREACHER MUST BE BOLD TO SPEAK THE GOSPEL**
- a. I Thess. 2:2 – *"We were bold in our God to speak unto the gospel of God with much contention"* – Jude 3.
 - b. "BOLD" means "confidence, fearlessness; the absence of fear in speaking".
 - c. Peter and John were BOLD in their preaching – Acts 4:13.
 - d. Paul wanted the prayers of the Ephesians that he might open his mouth BOLDLY – Eph. 6: 18 – 19.
 - e. A gospel preacher is a subject of ridicule and contempt by many – I Cor. 4: 12 – 13.
- III. **THE PREACHER'S PERSONAL LIFE MUST BE ONE OF PURITY – I Thess. 2:3.**
- a. It must NOT be a life of deceit or error. (v. 3)
 - i. Paul was not working to lead people astray – 2 Cor. 4:2.
 - ii. There are preachers today who are leading men away from God and His ways.
 - b. His life must NOT be one of uncleanness or impurity (v. 3)
 - i. If the preacher's life is filled with uncleanness, eventually others will be polluted by his life – I Cor. 5:6; I Cor. 15: 33; 2 Cor. 7:2.
 - ii. The preacher cannot have an impure life without affecting others.
 - c. His life must be free from GUILE – (v.3)
 - i. GUILE means fraud or deceit.
 - ii. The preacher's life must not be tainted with hypocrisy.
 - iii. Jesus an example – I Pet. 2:22.
 - d. His personal life did NOT consist of FLATTERY – I Thess. 2:5.
 - i. A faithful preacher will not resort to flattery in order to get people to praise him – Jude 16; Job. 32: 21 – 22; Psa. 12: 31; Prov. 28: 23.
 - ii. *"Meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips"* – Prov. 20:19.
 - iii. Beware of the man who has nothing but flattery – Prov. 29:5.
 - e. The preacher is NOT to PREACH FOR MONEY – I Thess. 2:5; Acts 20:33.

- i. Paul said he did NOT use “*a cloke of covetousness*” – (v. 5).
 - ii. A “Cloke” was an outer garment; it covered the inner garments.
 - 1. One could pretend to be one thing when he was something else.
 - iii. We should be preaching to SAVE SOULS and PLEASE GOD – I Thess. 2:4; Gal. 1:10.
 - iv. The Bible teaches that as a result of the preacher’s preaching, he should be supported – I Cor. 9:14.
 - v. I Cor. 9:16
 - f. He must NOT preach to have the glory of men – I Thess. 2:6.
 - i. The chief rulers wanted the glory of men – John 12: 42 – 43.
 - ii. The Scribes and Pharisees – Matt. 23: 5 – 7; John 5:44.
 - iii. Paul did not try to please men – I Thess. 2:4; Gal. 1:10
 - iv. Jesus said, “*Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets*” – Luke 6: 26.
 - g. HOLINESS OF LIVING is a requirement of a preacher and every Christian – I Thess. 2:10.
 - i. The preacher exerts a great deal of influence on others by his life – I Tim. 4:12
 - ii. He must live WHAT he preaches, that the ministry be not blamed – 2 Cor. 6:3.
 - iii. His life must be upright – Just – I Thess. 2:10.
 - iv. His life must be blameless – I Thess. 2: 10.
 - 1. He lives in such a way that there is not the cause of censure.
 - 2. He is subject to temptation just as is every person.
- IV. THE PREACHER’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOSPEL – I Thess. 2:4**
- a. The preacher is entrusted with the gospel – (v. 4) 2 Tim. 2:2; 4:2; I Cor. 4:2; I Tim. 6:20.
 - i. The preacher’s faithfulness to God’s Word demands STUDY – 2 Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 4: 13 – 16.
 - ii. The preacher’s faithfulness demands he DEFEND the gospel – Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; I Tim. 6:20.
 - iii. The preacher’s faithfulness demands he NOT SHUN to declare any part of the Word of God – Acts 20: 20, 27.
 - iv. His faithfulness demands he must NOT ADD to the Word – I Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22: 18 – 19.
- V. THE PREACHER’S WORK IN THE GOSPEL – I Thess. 2:11**
- a. The preacher is to EXHORT people to do what is right – Acts 2:40; Heb. 3:13; 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - i. It is easy to grow weary in this great work of the Lord – Gal. 6:9.
 - b. It is the preacher’s obligation and privilege to COMFORT the brethren – I Thess. 2:11:
 - i. Acts 20:32; Rom. 15:4.
 - ii. There is comfort in knowing our sins are forgiven.
 - iii. Comfort in the resurrection and of eternal life.
 - c. The preacher must CHARGE the people:
 - i. I Thess. 2:12 – Paul charges them.
 - ii. Rom. 12: 1 – 3
 - iii. I Cor. 1:10
- VI. THE PREACHER’S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD – I Thess. 2:4**
- a. The aim of every faithful preacher is to PLEASE GOD.
 - b. The preacher’s allegiance are to God, NOT to any man.
 - c. It is to God he must be TRUE – Gal. 1:10.
 - d. If preachers would recognize this there would be fewer problems in the church.
- VII. THE PREACHER’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE PEOPLE**

- a. It should be one of GENTLENESS – I Thess. 2:7; 2 Tim. 2:24
 - i. As a nurse cherisheth her children or as a mother's affection for a child at her breast.
 - ii. *"As a father doth his children"* – I Thess. 2:11 – *"In tenderness and love"*.
 - iii. A parent wants his children to do right; sometimes he must give them a spanking and he does this because he loves them.
- b. The preacher's relationship toward the congregation should be SACRIFICIAL – I Thess. 2: 8 – 9.
 - i. The same attitude is expressed in 2 Cor. 12:15.
- c. The preacher is to have AFFECTION for the people – I Thess. 2:8
 - i. I Thess. 2:17 – 20
 - ii. A preacher must love the people with whom he works.
 - iii. A hireling cares for only one thing: his job – John 10: 12 – 13

VIII. CONCLUSION

- a. As a result of Paul's labor in Thessalonica, the people received his message as the word of God – I Thess. 2:13.
- b. They became followers of the faithful churches – I Thess. 2:14.
- c. When a preacher will do what Paul did, he will see results from his labor.

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