

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 2 - Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

1TH 2:1 You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. [2] 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. [3] For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. [4] 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. [5] You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness. [6] 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, [7] but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. [8] 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. [9] 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 God to you.

1TH 2:10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. [11] For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, [12] encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1TH 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. [14] For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, [15] who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men [16] in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 2 - Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

12. Under what conditions did Paul share the gospel with the Thessalonians? (2:2)
13. What false charges had been made about Paul? (2:3-5)

14. How did Paul answer the charges against him? (2:3-5)
15. How were other traveling religious teachers deceiving people? (2:5)
16. How did Paul describe his relationship with the Thessalonians? (2:7)
17. What were Paul and his companions delighted to do? Why? (2:8)
18. What did Paul want the Thessalonians to remember about his time with them? (2:9)
19. How did Paul describe his work with the Thessalonians? (2:10)
20. In what way was Paul like a father to the Thessalonians? (2:11-12)
21. How did the Thessalonians receive the Word of God? (2:13)
22. How were the Thessalonians like the churches in Judea? (2:14)
23. What kind of opposition had Paul faced? (2:15-16)
24. What is God's response to people who oppose the preaching of His gospel? (2:16)

Lesson 3 - Paul's Longing to See the Thessalonians - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

1TH 2:17 But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. [18] For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us. [19] For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? [20] Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 3 - Paul's Longing to See the Thessalonians - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

25. How did Paul describe his departure and separation from the Thessalonians? (2:17)
26. What stopped Paul from returning to Thessalonica? (2:18)
27. What did Paul say would be his crown or reward at the Second Coming of the Lord? (2:19)
28. Why did Paul consider the Thessalonians his glory and joy? (2:20)

