

UNTIL HE RETURNS

1 Thessalonians

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Part 3: Ministry That Pleases God

1 Thessalonians 2

Main Idea: God calls every Christian to share the gospel courageously, sincerely, and compassionately so that others may come to faith in Christ.

Definition: “Gospel” means “*good news*.” In the New Testament, it is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose from the dead, and offers forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life to everyone who trusts in Him.



Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth around A.D. 50–51, after being forced to leave Thessalonica because of intense opposition. Timothy later returned from Thessalonica with encouraging news about the believers’ faith and love, but Paul also learned that some people were questioning his motives and ministry. In Chapter 2, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that he and his

companions had proclaimed the gospel courageously, honestly, and lovingly—not for praise or financial gain. He also expresses his deep affection for them and his strong desire to see them again.

I. Courage Despite Suffering (2:1–2)

- Paul’s visit was not a failure.
- God gave Paul and his companions boldness to proclaim the gospel despite strong opposition.

II. Pure Message and Motives (2:3–6)

- Their message did not involve deceit or trickery.
- They sought God’s approval rather than people’s praise.
- They did not use flattery or preach for financial gain.

III. Loving Spiritual Care (2:7–12)

- They cared for the believers gently, like a mother caring for her children.

- They encouraged them faithfully, like a father guiding his children.
- They provided an example worthy of imitation.

IV. The Word Received (2:13–16)

- The Thessalonians accepted Paul's message as God's Word.
- They remained faithful despite persecution and suffering.

V. Paul's Joy and Crown (2:17–20)

- Paul deeply longed to see the Thessalonians again.
- Satan repeatedly blocked his efforts to return.
- The Thessalonian believers were Paul's hope, joy, glory, and crown.

LOOKING CLOSER

1. What enabled Paul to share the gospel courageously despite suffering and opposition (2:1–2)? How might this help us overcome our fears about sharing Christ?

Paul's courage came from God rather than from his personality or circumstances. We can overcome fear through prayer, dependence on the Holy Spirit, preparation, and remembering that God is responsible for the results.

2. According to verses 2:3–12, what qualities should characterize the way Christians share the gospel? Which of these qualities is most challenging for you?

Christians should share the gospel with honesty, pure motives, courage, gentleness, compassion, and personal integrity. We should seek God's approval, genuinely care about people, and support our message with a Christlike example.

3. Paul described the Thessalonian believers as his "hope," "joy," and "crown" (2:19–20). How should the prospect of seeing people in Christ's presence affect the way we view spreading the gospel today?

It reminds us that people have eternal value. Helping someone come to faith in Christ brings lasting joy and may produce an eternal reward when Jesus returns. This should motivate us to pray for others, share the gospel, and help new believers grow.

RESOURCES: SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

- "The Hand - Sharing the Gospel in 3 minutes" (YouTube)
- Share the gospel safely online: ExploreGod.com
- Four Spiritual Laws (GotQuestions.Org)