

GOING DEEPER

Discipleship Resources for Community Church



Week of
Feb 25th
2019

JESUS IS TRUSTWORTHY AND AT WORK IN YOU

In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16, Paul responds to the accusations that the opponents in Thessalonica have raised, which mean to not only challenge him as the messenger but also to challenge the trustworthiness of the Good News as a whole. Paul reminds the people that he has been like a steward, gentle like a mother, and caring like a father – totally above reproach. Yet, the most important thing He reminds them of is that the real trustworthy source is God, himself, who’s proven that He is at work in their lives!

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, 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. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews—who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone—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.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

THIS WEEK:

Reflection: What is the biggest allegation against faith in Jesus that you have heard from those around you? Are there people in your life who believe that the Good News of Jesus is unbelievable because of accusations against, or very real failings, in Christians? How do you respond when you hear these obstacles to faith? How does Paul’s response to the accusations against Him serve as an example for you? What do you think it means to live a “life worthy of God” in light of the reality of God’s gracious and free love for us?

Application: Share with a fellow brother and sister a story/your testimony of how God has proven to be trustworthy and at work in your life. Consider how encouraging one another with stories of God’s work draws you in remembering how trustworthy He is, no matter the challenges you face. Consider taking this week to pray for those who are on your heart who can’t yet trust Jesus and see Him working in their lives.

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