

1 Thessalonians 2:1-9

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1. What does Paul mean by "our coming to you was not in vain?"

1 Thess. 2:1-2

1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

2 but after **we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi**, as you know, we had the **boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.**

1. What does Paul mean by "our coming to you was not in vain?"

The phrase **our coming to you** refers to the missionaries' arrival in Thessalonica with the message of the gospel.

Vain translates *kenos*, which means "empty." The term also could denote something that was without purpose, effect, or importance.

The gospel had a powerful impact because it produced deep and far-reaching effects in the lives of the Thessalonians. They had a genuine faith.
(1 Thess.1:1-10)

1. What does Paul mean by "our coming to you was not in vain?"

Isaiah 55:11

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;

It will not return to Me empty,

Without accomplishing what I desire,

And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

1. What does Paul mean by "our coming to you was not in vain?"

Paul shares the following concerning the gospel:

1. His confidence in God's power.
2. His commitment to God's truth.
3. His commissioning by God's will.
4. His dedication to God's glory.
5. His boldness in presenting God's message even among much opposition.

2. How did Paul present the gospel to the Thessalonians?

1 Thess. 2:3-4

3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

2. How did Paul present the gospel to the Thessalonians?

1. Paul did not preach error.
2. Paul did not add or take away from God's message.
3. Paul was not deceitful in sharing the gospel.
4. Paul did not speak to please men.
5. Paul was entrusted with the gospel. God examines his heart.

2. How did Paul present the gospel to the Thessalonians?

Pro. 21:2

2 Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.

Matt. 6:1

1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Gal. 1:10

10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

3. What can Christians learn from these verses about being entrusted with the gospel?

1. Never change the gospel and never add your opinions. It is God's gospel, not yours. Christians must be faithful to share it **accurately**.

2. It is entrusted to all Christians. They must be **bold** in presenting the gospel.

3. Christians should not rely on others to share the gospel message. They **must be ready**, by the best of their ability, to share the gospel with others.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

1 Thess. 2:5-6

5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed— God is witness—

6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

They did not come:

1. To flatter
2. Desiring money
3. To seek the glory of men
4. To assert their authority

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

Flattering speech

Paul did not flatter people to secure their friendship, following or support.

In his letters, he commended them often. He also covered the weak areas that people needed to strengthen, as well as their strong and commendable areas.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

Flattering speech

Eph. 4:14-16

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

Desiring money

Paul and his companions did not come to Thessalonica with a cloak, hiding greedy intentions.

They were not at all like the spiritual deceivers who came masking their real desires for sexual favors and money, using flattery to win over their audience, and then exploiting them for all sorts of personal satisfaction and gain.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

Desiring money

Acts 20:33-34

33 “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes.

34 “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

Seeking the glory of men

Paul did not share the gospel to get recognition, awards, applause, honor or praise from anyone.

Eph.3:20-21

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

4. Describe how Paul and his team came to the Thessalonians in vs 5-6?

Asserting their authority

Paul never abused his **authority** as an apostle but always balanced it with accountability and humility.

He knew that God's omniscience discerned every thought and intention of the heart, so he was careful not to desire praise from men but always to seek to give all the glory to God.

5. What was Paul's relationship with the Thessalonian saints ?

1 Thess. 2:7-8

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children.

8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

5. What was Paul's relationship with the Thessalonian saints ?

Paul and his companions:

1. Were gentle among them – as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.
2. Had a fond affection for them.
3. Not only shared the gospel message, but they also shared their own lives.
4. Were very dear to the saints at Thessalonica.

6. In vs 9, what specific challenges does Paul mention regarding his ministry at Thessalonica?

1 Thess. 2:9

9 For you recall, brethren, **our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you**, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

6. In vs 9, what specific challenges does Paul mention regarding his ministry at Thessalonica?

Paul and his companions were self-supported while at Thessalonica.

Acts 18:2-3

2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.

7. What are some practical steps we can take to ensure our daily lives align with the gospel we share?

- 1. Live a godly life 24/7.**
- 2. Listen to others with gentleness, patience and compassion.**
- 3. Treat all people with love, respect and kindness.**