

1 Thessalonians 2:10-20

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A strong church vs 13-20

A. They received the Word of God as the Word of God (v. 13).

B. They became followers of strong churches and stood fast despite severe persecution (v. 14).

C. They escaped the Jews' guilt (vv. 15–16).

D. They possessed a strong fellowship (vv. 17–18).

E. They were destined to bring glory and joy to their teachers (vv. 19–20).

1. How did Paul challenge the Thessalonians to examine the integrity of his life? What did they discover?

1 Thess. 2:10

10 You are witnesses, and so is
God, how **devoutly** and **uprightly**
and **blamelessly** we behaved
toward you believers;

1. How did Paul challenge the Thessalonians to examine the integrity of his life? What did they discover?

Devoutly

They lived “devoutly.”

They walked with God in such a way that His name, His will, and His kingdom were their first priority.

This commitment is the essence of holiness.

1. How did Paul challenge the Thessalonians to examine the integrity of his life? What did they discover?

Uprightly or Righteously

They lived “righteously.”

Righteousness points to their conduct.

They lived their lives with honesty and integrity, and thus they avoided any appearance of evil.

1. How did Paul challenge the Thessalonians to examine the integrity of his life? What did they discover?

Blamelessly

They lived “blamelessly” before God and man.

They did not claim to be sinless.

They claimed to be blameless. They treat others with respect.

They knew that they were targets for their critics, they sought to live their lives above reproach.

1. How did Paul challenge the Thessalonians to examine the integrity of his life? What did they discover?

Paul demonstrated to the Thessalonians (“You are witnesses and so is God”) the necessity of right conduct for believers.

Paul and his companions lived their lives devoutly, uprightly (righteously) and blamelessly.

2. What analogy does Paul use to describe his relationship with the Thessalonians?

1 Thess. 2:11-12

11 just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2. What analogy does Paul use to describe his relationship with the Thessalonians?

1. A father leads by example.

2. A father is a teacher and motivator – exhorting, encouraging and imploring (testifying or witnessing).

3. A spiritual father will continue his efforts until he produces sons and daughters who “walk in a manner worthy” – live mature lives in the sight of God.

3. Why is it important to live a righteous life among the people you witness to?

You lead by example. This will enable others to learn from the godly life you live and to faithfully obey God's commandments.

4. How did the saints at Thessalonica receive the word of God?

1 Thess. 2:13-14

13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when **you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe.

14 For you, brethren, **became imitators of the churches of you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea**, for, even as they *did* from the Jews,

4. How did the saints at Thessalonica receive the word of God?

1. The Thessalonians believed the message of the Cross and that belief powerfully affected their daily lives.

2. The Thessalonians were imitators (they remained faithful) of the saints in Judea.

3. The Thessalonians endured persecution at the hands of both unbelieving Jews and their Gentile accomplices.

5. What did Paul say about the Jews? How did Paul's critics seek to discredit his message?

1 Thess. 2:14-16

14 ...the Jews,

15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,

16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But **wrath has come upon them** to the utmost.

5. What did Paul say about the Jews? How did Paul's critics seek to discredit his message?

The Jews rejected God's Word:

1. Killed the Lord Jesus (Matt. 27:20-25, Mark 14:61-65, 15:11-14, Luke 23:20-25, John 19:12-16).

2. Killed the prophets (Matt. 23:31-35, Heb. 11:32-37).

3. Resented the gospel being preached so that others might be saved (Acts 5:25-33).

4. Wrath has come upon them to the utmost (Rev 19).

6. What motivated Paul to keep pushing forward?

1 Thess. 2:17-20

17 But we, **brethren**, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and *yet* Satan hindered us.

19 For **who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation?**
Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

20 For **you are our glory and joy.**

6. What motivated Paul to keep pushing forward?

1. Paul called the Thessalonians **brethren**, a familiar term of endearment that expressed his concern and heartfelt affection for them.
2. Paul encouraged the Thessalonians with the truth, and he loved them. This was evidenced by his desire to see them.
3. Satan kept him away.

6. What motivated Paul to keep pushing forward?

4. Paul acknowledged that the Thessalonians would be central to his eternal **joy in heaven**.

2 Cor. 1:13-14

13 For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;

14 just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

Phil. 2:14-16

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

6. What motivated Paul to keep pushing forward?

5. The Thessalonians were also his **glory**. This was the true honor bestowed on him by God, who used him to preach the gospel to them.

Phil. 4:1

1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

7. How can the themes of encouragement and responsibility found in these verses help shape your personal spiritual journey?

- 1. Effective discipleship is founded on the gospel, proclaimed in love through people of godly integrity, resulting in disciples who walk worthily of God and His glory.**
- 2. A teacher displays father-like qualities by showing love, serving others, leading by example and encouraging his spiritual sons and daughters to live a mature and godly life .**
- 3. The Bible is studied to receive knowledge of God and to hear His Word.**
- 4. Ministry and teaching are focused on serving people.**
- 5. Paul's great hope, his joy and crown when he would come into the presence of Jesus, was not any credentials or doctorates or letters that he had written. His joy and crown was the Thessalonians themselves, the people he served and helped spiritually.**