



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

## Chapter 2

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# Introduction

- The believers in Thessalonica were going through difficult time because of the persecution so they needed word of encouragement and support
- So in chapter two, St. Paul:
  - ❑ Emphasized his love and fatherhood to them
  - ❑ Praised them for accepting the gospel as word of God
  - ❑ Praised them for enduring the persecution
  - ❑ Explained his longing to see them and why he could not visit them earlier

# The Proper Attitude of the Servant (2:1-12)



- **Courage:** The steadfastness of St. Paul in the midst of hostility brought forth fruits
- The suffering in Philippi (Acts 16: 24) did not stop them from preaching the gospel with boldness
- So their suffering will bring forth fruits too if they remained steadfast
- Suffering is not an indication that there is an error in the message, rather it can be an indication for the truthfulness of the message

# The Proper Attitude of the Servant (2:1-12)



- Error: like the Gnostics or the Jewish teachers
- Uncleanliness: like the pagans who worshiped with uncleanness
- Deceit: having a hidden agenda beyond preaching the gospel to them
- So, truth, holiness, and love are essential elements in preaching the gospel
- They were not men pleasers but **pleasing God** who tested their hearts and thus approved their ministry

# The Proper Attitude of the Servant (2:1-12)



- Men pleasers use flattering words
- If they were greedy or covetous, they would acted in deceit
- They were **seeking the glory of God** not their own glory
- Even they refused the glory and the demands that are due to them as apostles
- Authority in service is given to serve and love not to control and demand

# The Proper Attitude of the Servant (2:1-12)



- **Gentleness:** the servants should be like a nursing mother full of compassion and affection
- The nursing mother does not expect any glory or money from her children in return
- **Sacrificial love:** the willingness to give one's self to his children
- This was translated into actions: He did not burden them with his financial needs
- **Devoutness:** his dedication to the service



# The Proper Attitude of the Servant (2:1-12)



- **Justice:** no partiality
- **Blamelessness:** not offending anybody
- The servant **exhorts, charges, and comforts** with the spirit of fatherhood
- The goal of the servant is make his children walking worthy of God's calling
- God called us to His kingdom and His glory
- God is witness on our service but the people are also witnesses

# The Fruits of His Ministry (2:13-16)



- He told them that his preaching was not in vain
- These fruits are the work of the Holy Spirit, so he gave thanks to God without ceasing
- They accepted their word as the word of God
- The power of the word of God: When we receive the gospel as word of God, it will transform us
- Enduring suffering for the word of God is an indication that we accepted it as His own word



# The Fruits of His Ministry (2:13-16)



- This was not particular to them, but this happened to the believers in Judea as it happened with the Lord Himself for the Judeans killed the Lord and the prophets
- They persecuted the Christians
- They do not please God nor men
- They forbade preaching the gentiles
- They filled up the measure of their sins and worthy of the uttermost wrath

# St. Paul's Concern For Them (2:17-20)



- The spiritual bond is beyond the time and place
- The love and longing should be the motive behind visitations.
- We expect obstacles from Satan (Acts 17: 1-9)
- The flock is the hope, joy, glory, and crown of rejoicing of the servant
- In the second coming of Christ, the fruits of our service will be our hope because this is triumph over Satan



# Conclusion

- What had St. Paul endured prior to coming to Thessalonica?
- What was his attitude when he arrived?
- How should a servant conduct himself in his ministry?
- What is the function of authority in service?
- What is the indication that we accept the word of God as God's word and not men's word?
- What should be the motive of visitation?
- Who will be our hope, glory, joy, and crown of rejoicing in the second coming of the Lord?