



# *1<sup>st</sup> Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica*

## *1 Thessalonians 2:5-8-The Message of the Gospel was Pure*

- Let's begin by reflecting on Andrew's teaching from the first part of this chapter (*verses 1-4*) last week.
  - Andrew escorted us nicely along Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey – both chronologically and geographically.
  - Suffering can lead to *boldness* in furtherance of the *gospel*, to which we have been *entrusted*, and not *in vain*.
- ***1 Thessalonians 2:5 – For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.***
  - Describe and give examples of *flattering words*!
    - (only Biblical use of this term)
  - *as you know* – this is *eidō*, fact
  - *nor a cloak (en - in pretext) for covetousness (pleonexia)*
    - Both *flattering words* and *cloak* disregard the rights and needs of others to gain one's own selfish desires.



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– *2 Peter 2:18 - For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who are barely escaping from those who live in error.*

– ***God is witness*** – we can't get away with anything can we!

– *Rom 1:9 - For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.*

• ***1 Thessalonians 2:6 – ILG - Nor seeking from men glory, neither from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.***

– Let's ponder here momentarily – how much of our spoken words or life is sourced in *seeking glory from others?*

- *seeking* is a present participle – *nor were we seeking*

- Reflects habitual behavior of Paul, Silvanus and Timothy.

- Do you agree with Keathley – *'Verse 5 was primarily aimed at financial motives. Verse 6, on the other hand, is aimed at the desire for the praise of people, the lusts for position, praise, applause, power, and the like.'*



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- What did Paul mean by *when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ*?
  - *demands* is better translated as *being burdensome* and how do you think this related to *the apostles of Christ*?
    - Did this relate to his apostolic authority?
      - » *1 Cor 9:1,2 - Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*
- ***1 Thessalonians 2:7 - But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.***
  - When you envision that Paul et al *were being gentle* to the church at Thessalonica, what comes to mind?
    - *were gentle* – to show oneself or prove oneself as gentle
      - Wasn't this the new life in Christ portrayed in him and even all of us today?
        - » *2 Cor 10:6 - as sorrowful, yet **always rejoicing**; as poor, yet **making many rich**; as having nothing, and yet **possessing all things**.*
        - » *2 Tim 2:24 - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but **be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,***



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- *just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children*
  - Can you think of any better example?
    - *Eph 5:29 - For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*
  - Do you think this behavior still predominates today?
- ***1 Thessalonians 2:8 - So, affectionately longing 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 dear to us.***
  - What stands out to you in this verse?
    - *affectionately longing* means to be closely attached – is there any stronger message possible?
      - *present middle participle* (again only Biblical use).
  - *we were well pleased to impart to you*
    - *being well pleased* is often translated as *willing* but means to be well content.



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- This is like other messages of Paul to bodies of believers.
  - *Rom 1:11a - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established....*
- *not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives*
  - Keathley – *‘Helping people to grow in the Lord, as with grow-ing chil-dren, takes time and requires patience. Sometimes it causes pain and priorities need to be set in our relation-ships. You don’t raise children overnight,. You can’t raise them without growing pains for both par-ent and child alike, and we can’t impact them for Christ with-out spending quality time to see them built up in Christ.*
    - *Phil 4:16, 17 - For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.*
    - *1 John 3:16 - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
      - » *How should we interpret this?*
- *because you had become dear to us.*
  - *becoming dear, agapētos (notice, from agape) - esteemed, beloved and in Godly or Christ-based sense.*
    - *Phil 2:20 - For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.*