

Waiting for the Son (1 Thessalonians) Part 4

## Bringers of the Word (1 Thess 2:1-12)

-Bible passage

### 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

**2** You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. **2** 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. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. **4** 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. **5** You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. **6** 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. **7** Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, **8** 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. **9** 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. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. **11** For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **12** encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

-“The story so far”!

#### Previously

-Paul & Silas, after miraculously escaping jail in **Philippi**, preach for 3 Sabbaths in **Thessalonica**; some Jews and a large number of Gentiles join them; they set up a house church at Jason's house for (probably) some months; a crowd stirred up by the Jewish leaders try to lynch them, but can only find Jason and some others whom they bring to the politarchs (city officials), where they are bound over to keep the peace and released (Acts 17:1-9)

-Paul & Silas go to **Berea**, are joined by Timothy; another riot (instigated by the Thessalonian Jewish leaders) forces Paul to escape to **Athens** (Acts 17:13-15)

-while in **Athens** Paul is rejoined by Silas & Timothy; Timothy is sent back to Thessalonica to see how the church is going (1 Thess 3:1) [probably because he was not known to the Jewish authorities]

-Paul goes on from Athens to **Corinth**, where Silas & Timothy rejoin him (Acts 18:5; 1 Thess 3:6). Paul then writes "1 Thessalonians" from Corinth.

-in **1 Thessalonians 1** we saw Paul remind the readers about the “centre” of the gospel: the death, resurrection and coming return of the Lord Jesus in judgment; and we saw him tell us about the shape of the gospel-centred life, a life of faith that works, love that labours, and hope that endures.

-in **1 Thessalonians 2** last time we saw Paul defend his gospel ministry in the city by pointing out how he did *not* do it- no deceit, not making his own ideas up, no flattery; now we see him telling us how we *should* do gospel ministry

## **1. How to bring the word of God to others**

### **(a) Looking to God**

- (i) courage
- (ii) entrusted
- (iii) pleasing God

### **(b) Looking to the real interests of others**

- (i) love
- (ii) not just words but life

## **2. Life centred on God and others**

- (a) work
- (b) quality of life
- (c) lives worthy of God

## **3. The God who calls us to bring the word**