

Paul Remembers Thessalonica
Lesson #6
1 Thessalonians 2:1-3:5

Paul Remembers His Visit - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-3

In the opening chapter of his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul expressed his gratitude for the Thessalonians. He continued his letter by remembering their time together.

1. Paul described his visit with them as a success (not a failure). Using 1 Thessalonians 2:2:
 - He contrasted their visit with his visit to Philippi. How did he describe that time?
 - In spite of strong opposition, how did Paul say he was able to bring the gospel to the Thessalonians?
2. Paul defended his appeal by clarifying his motives. What did he say his motivation did not *"spring from?"* (1 Thessalonians 2:3)

Characteristics of Godly Leadership - 1 Thessalonians 2:4-16

3. What did he say was his motivation? (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
4. Calling upon God as his witness, what did Paul testify that they never did? (1 Thessalonians 2:5, 6a)
5. Traveling philosophers and teachers often expected much from the people they addressed. How were these *"apostles of Christ"* different? (1 Thessalonians 2:6b, 7)
6. Paul went even further saying, *"We loved you."* How did they show that love?
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:8

- 1 Thessalonians 2:9
7. Once again calling upon God as witness, as well as the Thessalonians themselves, how did Paul describe the apostles' character while among them? (1 Thessalonians 2:10)
 8. In verse 7, Paul described himself "*like a mother*," and in verse 11 "*as a father*." How did he describe his "*fatherliness*" among them? (1 Thessalonians 2:11, 12)
 9. In verses 4 – 12, Paul gave characteristics of godly leadership. Review these verses and make a list of those characteristics.

Reflect: These characteristics should be present in everyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ, and they come with maturity of faith. Look back over the list. How are you doing? Is there an area that may need some work?

10. There is one more important characteristic of a godly leader, and that is prayer. Why did Paul say that he thanked God (in prayer) continually for them? (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
11. They were also described as becoming "*imitators of God's churches in Judea which are in Christ Jesus*." In what way had they become imitators? (1 Thessalonians 2:14)
12. The Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, also drove Paul and the other believers out (of Jerusalem). How did Paul describe the character of such people? (1 Thessalonians 2:15)

13. In what way was that displayed? (1 Thessalonians 2:16a)
14. Paul also described the final end of those Jews, or anyone else, who tries to stop the gospel. What was Paul's warning? (1 Thessalonians 2:16 b, c)

Paul Longs to See Them - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

15. Paul and Silas had left Thessalonica during the night. (Acts 17:10) How did Paul say he felt leaving in this manner? (1 Thessalonians 2:17)
16. Paul said, *"We wanted to come to you."* Why didn't they return? (1 Thessalonians 2:18)
17. How did Paul describe the Thessalonians? (1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20)
18. When Paul *"could stand it no longer,"* what did he do? (1 Thessalonians 3:1, 2)
19. Why was that so important to Paul? (1 Thessalonians 3:3, 4)
20. In this letter, Paul described himself in parental terms both as father and mother. Being so far away from his spiritual children was very difficult for Paul. What was he most concerned about? (1 Thessalonians 3:5)