

## **Effectively Ministering the Gospel | 1 Thess 2:1-16**

*What are some of the ways the world judges success? What about when it comes to ministry – are there worldly ways of evaluating the effectiveness of gospel work as well?*

READ 1 Thess 2:1-12

1. Quickly recap the 'visit' that Paul refers to in verse 1 (c.f. Acts 17:1-9). On what basis does Paul decide that this short stay in Thessalonica had not been a flop?
2. What is the right motivation for effective gospel ministry (v. 4b)? How do you think that regularly reminding ourselves of this might help us to guard against:
  - a. Flattery or deception?
  - b. Greed or selfish gain?
  - c. Guilt and the pressure to always say 'yes'?
3. List some of the relational images and ideas that Paul uses in verses 6-12. What are some ways in which verse 8, in particular, ought to shape the way we engage in gospel ministry?

4. Paul makes a big deal about the fact that he was never a burden to the Thessalonian church (vv. 6, 9).
  - a. Does this mean that the Apostles had no right to financial support at all (c.f. 2 Thess 3:6-10)?
  - b. Read 2 Cor 11:7-12 (esp. v. 9). What are some practical ways that we, as a church, can be seeking to supply the needs of others?

READ 1 Thess 2:13-16

5. Re-read verse 13. Is the apostolic message (and by extension, the whole Bible) the word of man, the word of God, or both? How might this impact the way we:
  - a. Read our Bibles at home?
  - b. Share the gospel with non-Christians?
  - c. Sit under the preaching of the word?
6. What is the relationship between success and suffering (esp. suffering for the gospel) in the Christian life?

*Pray for the courage to speak God's gospel, share our lives with others, and play to an audience of One ...*