

“We Aim To Please!”
1 Thessalonians 2:1-7

Introduction:

1. The Gospel Was Very Important To Paul & The Thessalonian Church!
 - It Was Important For The Church:
 - Because, Without The True Gospel, There Would Not Be Any Church!
 - And, As The Newly Formed Church Was Struggling Through Persecution & Opposition:
 - The Power Of The Gospel Was Shown!
 - Because, As We Learned Last Week, The Gospel’s Power Was Seen Through Their Lives!
Through Their Lives: The Gospel “Sounded Out” With Power & With Purpose!
 - It Was Also Important For Paul:
 - Because, Without The True Gospel, He Would Not Have Any Power Or Purpose!
 - But, Through The Gospel:
 - Paul Had Strong Motives & Reasons To Travel All The Way Into Macedonia To Share The Gospel With The People There!
 2. The Strongest Motive Was That He Wanted To Please God!
 - Seen In 2:1-7! Read Passage!
 - Through These Verses, Paul Shows Us What Ought To Motivate Us In Our Service & Witness For The Lord!
 - We Should Want To Please The Lord!
 - Who Do We “Aim To Please?”
 - During The Wild West, Gunman Would Try To Strike Fear Into Others By Showing Off Their Skill & Selling Themselves!
 - They Would Brag By Saying The Phrase “I Aim To Kill”!
 - In The 1930's, Some Prominent Companies Changed This Phrase In Order To Sell Their Products!
 - And They Would Place A Sign In Their Window Stating: “We Aim To Please!”
 - Their Aim Was To Please Their Customers, So That The Favor Would Be Returned!
 3. Paul Aimed To Please God!
 - And This Was The Motive For Bringing The Gospel To The Thessalonians!
 - Our Aim Ought To Be To Please God As Well! Because:
1. ***We Have A Message To Bring!***
 - 2:1-2 - “For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: / But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention!”
 - When Paul Came Unto The Thessalonians:
 - The Message “Was Not [Brought] In Vain”!
 - It Was Not In “Emptiness”!
 - Compared To The Empty & Meaningless Messages Of Other Philosophers & Religious Leaders!
 - They Came With A Full & Meaningful Message – “The Gospel Of God!”
 - Because Of The Character Of The Gospel:
 - The Message Was Brought In Boldness!
 - They “Were Bold . . . To Speak . . . The Gospel Of God!”
 - Even Under Pressure!
 - Seen In How They Were Treated At Philippi!
 - Acts 16:12-40!
 - Physical Pressure!
 - They “Suffered!”
 - Placed In Stocks / Beaten / Imprisoned!
 - They Continued To Speak The Gospel With Boldness! Freedom!
 - Psychological Pressure!
 - They “Were Shamefully Entreated!”

- Falsely Accused & Condemned!
- Faced Public Humiliation!
- They Continued To Speak The Gospel With Boldness! Confidence!
- Prolonged Pressure!
 - The Pressure Didn't End When They Left Philippi! It Followed Them Into Thessalonica!
 - They Spoke "With Much Contention!"
 - "Agony" - The Agony Experienced In Athletic Competition - Especially During The Greek Olympics!
 - They Continued To Speak The Gospel With Boldness!
- How Could They Do This?
 - Because They Had A Message To Bring!
 - It Was The "Gospel Of God!"
 - Therefore They Were "Bold In Our God!"
 - And Their Aim Was To Please God!
 - * Paul's Message Is Our Message! Paul's Motive Is Our Motive! Paul's Aim Is Our Aim!
- Who Do You Aim To Please?
 - When Your Aim Is To Please The Lord:
 - You Will Bring His Message To Others!
 - In Boldness / Even Under Pressure!
 - Why? Because The Message Is From God! And Your Might / Strength Is From God!

2. ***We Have A Master To Serve!***

- 2:3-4 - "For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: / But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts!"
 - The Message Of The Gospel Was A Message Of Comfort: "Exhortation" (Parakleisis) - To Help Others Come To God!
- So, When Paul Came To The Thessalonians:
 - His Motive Was Not To Please Himself!
 - He Was Not Self-Serving / He Was Not His Own Master!
 - "Not Of Deceit" – ***Error!***
 - Trying To Lead Astray!
 - Because Only The Truth Could Truly Comfort!
 - "Nor Of Uncleanness" – ***Impurity!***
 - To Satisfy Their Own Lusts & Desires!
 - Because Only The Pure Could Truly Comfort!
 - Ephesians 5:27 - "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish!"
 - "Nor In Guile" – ***Trickery!***
 - To Benefit Themselves!
 - Because Only The Authentic Could Truly Comfort!
 - * This Must Be The Guide For Our Church As Well!
 - We See Each Of These Present In Churches Today!
 - Error! Impurity! Trickery!
 - Error: John Hagee, Cornerstone Church, San Antonio: New Book: "In Defense Of Israel" - "This book Will Shake Christian Theology!" / "The Jewish people, as a whole, did not reject Jesus as Messiah!" / "Jesus did not come to earth to be the Messiah!" / "Since Jesus refused, by word and deed, to claim to be the Messiah, How can the Jews be blamed for rejecting what was never offered?"
 - Impurity: Rod Parsley, World Harvest Church, Columbus: "I Just Love To Talk About Your Money. Let Me Be Very Clear: I Want Your Money. I Deserve It. This Church Deserves It!" (From "An Empire Of Souls")
 - Be On Guard!

- We Are Not To Serve / Please Ourselves!
- Our Motive Is To Please God!
 - “Not As Pleasing Men, But God!” (2:4)
 - Based Upon A Divine Approval!
 - “Allowed” – Through Christ!
 - With A Divine Trust!
 - With The Precious & Valuable Gospel Message!
 - Not To Be Hidden / Compromised!
 - In Light Of A Divine Testing!
 - Why The Gospel Ought To Be Shared With Clarity & Consistency!
- How Could They Do This?
 - Because They Had A Master To Serve!
 - It Wasn’t Themselves! It Was God!
 - Therefore They Spoke!
 - And Their Aim Was To Please God!
 - * This Is Our Message! Our Motive! Our Aim!
- Who Do You Aim To Please?
 - When Your Aim Is To Please The Lord:
 - You Will Serve Your Master!
 - Why? Because Of His Approval / Trust / Testing!

3. *We Have A Mission To Accomplish!*

- 2:5-7 - “For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: / Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. / But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children!”
- The Mission Is Not For Personal Glory!
 - By “Flattering Words”!
 - In Order To Gain Influence!
 - Like The Candidates For President - Seems Like They Change What They Say Depending On The Audience! This Is The Kind Of Flattery Here!
 - By “Clove Of Covetousness”!
 - Hidden Motive Or Agenda!
 - By Being “Burdensome”!
 - Demanding Support & Esteem!
 - Though, They Had The Right To, As Being The Messengers Of Christ!
- The Mission Is For Personal Giving!
 - “Gentle” - As A Nursing Mother Cares For Her Baby!
 - In Closeness!
 - In Concern!
 - In Carefulness!
 - **IE:** “Used Of Birds Covering Their Young With Their Feathers To Warm & Protect Them!” (Hiebert)!
- * How Could They Do This?
 - Because They Had A Mission To Accomplish!
 - It Was Not For Their Own Gain!
 - But It Was For The Good Of Others!
 - And Their Aim Was To Please God!
 - For The Glory Of God First!
 - For The Good Of Others Second!
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. / Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: / Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved!”
 - * This Is Our Mission! Our Aim!

- Who Do You Aim To Please?
 - When Your Aim Is To Please The Lord:
 - You Will Accomplish Your Mission!
 - Why?
 - Because As He As Given To You, You Will Give To Others!
 - Matthew 10:8 - "Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!"

Conclusion:

1. Who Do You Aim To Please?
 - Yourself? You Will Be Silent!
 - Then You Will Not Care About God's Message / You Will Not Serve Your Master / You Will Not Accomplish Your Mission!
 - Others?
 - Then You Will Compromise God's Message / You Will Not Serve Your Master / You Will Not Accomplish Your Mission!
 - The Lord?
 - When Your Aim Is To Please The Lord, It Will Be Evident!
 - You Will Bring His Message!
 - You Will Serve Your Master!
 - You Will Accomplish Your Mission!
2. As The Signs In Stores That Say: "We Aim To Please!"
 - Let Your Life Be A Sign To Others:
 - "I Aim To Please The Lord!"

***Grace Baptist Church of Mohawk
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace***