

We will begin the second lecture on 1 Thessalonians. /Today we will begin with chapter 2. /The title of this chapter is “The Glory of Jesus’ Second Coming.”

Let’s look at the main points. /First, the attitude of an evangelist. Verses 1-6. /Second, the heart of an evangelist. /Verse 7-12. /Third, the attitude of those who receive God’s word. /Verses 13-16. /Fourth, love and hope. /Verses 17-20.

/Read verse 1. /You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure.

/This means that Paul’s evangelism at the church at Thessalonica was not a failure. /Paul evangelized with the Holy Spirit and with power. /We talked about this in 1:5. /Paul bore many fruit while bringing up the church at Thessalonica.

/Verse 2. /We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.

/Paul evangelized in Philippi before he went to Thessalonica. /Paul encountered many sufferings and was insulted when he preached in Philippi. /Then with the help of God, he fought the good fight.

/Paul courageously preached the gospel in the midst of his sufferings. /Then he left Philippi and went to Thessalonica to evangelize. /Acts 17:1-9. /Acts 16:34. /Paul faced sufferings and was insulted.

/Paul was imprisoned in the region of Philippi. /Acts 16:23. /Paul was also insulted. /Paul was personally insulted. /Still, Paul fully relied on God in the midst of it all.

/Paul did not back down even though many were against him. /He courageously preached the gospel with the power of God. /Even if many people stand against us, we can have victory if we rely on God.

/We must not be afraid of those who persecute us. /Isaiah 41:10. /The truth will have the victory if we continue to fight with God’s power. /God is on the side of the truth of the gospel.

/Verse 3. /For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.

/Paul appealed to the people as he evangelized with the gospel. /When he shared the gospel, he did not do it with error or impure motives. /He did not try to trick people. /“Error” refers to tricks or mistakes.

/“Impure motives” refer to materialistic greed. /“Trick” refers to humanly tricks and schemes. /1 Thessalonians 1:5. /2:1. /Paul preached the gospel with truthfulness.

/Today, we must not use humanly methods or ways when we preach the gospel. /We must evangelize only by relying on God's wisdom and power. /We must share God's pure word. /2 Corinthians 2:17.

/We must not mix other things into God's word. /We must preach God's pure word as it is. /2 Corinthians 4:2.

/We must not mix anything to the gospel. /We must not mix worldly philosophies into the gospel. /We must not mix secularism into the gospel. /There is life only when we preach the gospel just as it is.

/Verse 4. /On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

/The apostle Paul was approved by God. /Paul was acknowledged by God. /He was a faithful servant. /1 Timothy 1:12. /Moses was refined in the Midian Desert. /Then Moses became a faithful servant.

/We must not attempt to make people happy. /Then we will end up yielding the truth /and compromising with falseness. /We must purely act according to God's will alone. /We must testify to the gospel as it is.

/We must obey God's will. /This is how we can fulfill our calling. /This is how we can make God happy.

/Verse 5. /You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed-- God is our witness.

/Paul did not use flattery or put on a mask to cover up greed when he evangelized. /He did not take other people's possessions with scheming words. /He did not harbor greed. / Paul threw away greed. /Paul only testified about God's word.

/Paul served others and made sacrifices when he shared the gospel. /He was not served by others, but he served others.

/Verse 6. /We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you,

/Paul had authority and honor as an apostle of Jesus. /Paul had the authority to be served by other believers. /However, Paul did not use his authority. /Paul did not seek glory from people.

/He gave glory and honor only to God. /Paul became low and was scorned upon by others. /Paul became low and carried the cross, and he followed the Lord. /Paul did not seek compliments from people when he evangelized. /Paul worked to receive compliments from God.

/Verse 7. /but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

/Paul evangelized like a mother caring for her children. /Mothers are usually caring. /That is why pastors must have the hearts of mothers, and must be gentle when they care for believers. /2 Corinthians 10:1.

/Mothers have patience on their children when they do wrong. /Pastors must care for believers as mothers do. /Pastors must correctly bring up believers. /Pastors must nurture believers with loving hearts.

/Verse 8. /We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

/Paul did not only share the gospel with believers, but he was also delighted to share his life with them as well. /Paul truly loved the believers. /Therefore, pastors today must not only preach God's word of truth, but make sacrifices and evangelize as well.

/We must sacrifice our lives to nurture believers. /Pastors must love Jesus and truly love the believers. /Jesus asked Peter, "Do you truly love me?"

/We must love Jesus and also love the sheep. /Paul even risked his life and loved the believers.

/Verse 9. /Surely you remember, brothers, 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.

/Paul toiled and worked hard to teach the believers. /Paul did not want to burden the believers. /Paul worked while he preached the gospel. /Paul made tents to make a living as he preached the gospel. /Acts 18:3.

/Paul evangelized during the day, and he made tents at night. /Today, what must pastors do? /Believers must try and treat pastors well. /Galatians 6:6. /This is the way to receiving blessings. /Matthew 10:40-42.

/Today, churches must give honorarium to their full-time pastors. /It is good for pastors to focus wholly on doing God's work and not worldly works. /Pastors must put the church and the bringing up of believers first.

/Pastors certainly must not rely on believers. /Paul sometimes received annual reports from believers. /He used materials that believers gave him to live. /Philippians 4:15-18.

/Thus, we must do ministry as pastors with the general honorarium that is given to us. /However, pastors must rely only on God.

/Verse 10. /You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we

were among you who believed.

/Paul was holy, righteous, and blameless when he went to the church at Thessalonica.
/We too must throw away our greed, and be upright.

/Verse 11. /For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,

/Paul encouraged and comforted believers as a father does with his children. /In verse 7, he nurtured believers with a gentle and loving hearts like a mother. /Sometimes, he was strict and just as he comforted and disciplined believers.

/We must not be overly strict /or overly gentle, /but we must fittingly nurture believers. /Sometimes we must be tolerant and lenient towards believers. /Sometimes we must be strict and discipline believers.

/Verse 12. /encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

/Believers must always live lives worthy of God. /It is good for pastors to gently tolerate and comfort believers. /It is good for pastors to sometimes strictly discipline believers. /This is all done to be worthy before God. /Pastors do this to make sure that believers can become worthy before God.

/Verse 13. /And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

/The believers at Thessalonica did not receive God's word as the word of men. /They received it as the word of God. /When we listen to sermons, we must listen as God's word to us.

/We must listen with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /1:6. /When we do so, God's word will work within us. /God's word will nurture our lives. /Then our faith will grow.

/We must yearn for God's word and obey. /We must find things we need to repent of. /This is living faith and blessed faith.

/Verse 14. /For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews,

/In the time of the early church, the church at Jerusalem was the mother church of all Gentile churches. /Hence, all Gentile churches modeled themselves after the church at Jerusalem. /At that time, the church at Jerusalem received great persecution. /It was persecuted by the Jews, the same people as them. /In that way, the Gentile churches were

persecuted by their own people.

/Therefore, the Gentile churches needed to know that it was normal for them to be persecuted. /Therefore, we must keep our faith when we are persecuted. /It is normal for us to keep our faith in the midst of persecutions. /That is the way to follow the Lord.

/Verse 15. /who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men

/The Jews persecuted and resented Jesus. /They also killed prophets and apostles, and they chased out believers.

/Verse 16. /in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

/When the apostles preached the gospel to the Gentiles, the Jews followed them and persecuted them. /The Jews kept Paul from evangelizing. /They brought about God's wrath. /The Jews stood in the way of God's work of salvation. /Thus, the Jews would receive judgment as a result of God's wrath.

/Verse 17. /But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

/The believers stayed interested and prayed for Paul when he was away from the church at Thessalonica. /Paul was away in the flesh, but his heart was always with them. /Paul always kept the believers in his heart and loved them. /2:8.

/Pastors' hearts must always be with believers. /Believers must always have pastors in their hearts. /Philippians 1:7, 8.

/Verse 18. /For we wanted to come to you-- certainly I, Paul, did, again and again-- but Satan stopped us.

/Paul wanted to visit the church at Thessalonica. /However, Satan stopped him. /Satan kept Paul from going to Thessalonica.

/Verses 19-20. /For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

/Why did Paul desire to go to the church at Thessalonica? /Paul wanted to build the character of believers. /He wanted to share spiritual food with them. Romans 1:11. /Hence, the believers' faith would grow in the future.

/Believers would become the pastors' crown. /Believers would be the pastors' joy. /They

would be each other's glory. /When believers keep their faith, it becomes the pastors' glory. /Pastors also become the believers' glory.

/Pastors are the believers' glory. /Believers are the pastors' glory. /2 Corinthians 1:14. /Philippians 4:1. /The believers at Thessalonica grew in faith as they learned from Paul. /Therefore, Paul become the believers' joy and glory.

/Pastors and believers become each other's glory. /We will be each other's glory in heaven.

/Believers will say, "I grew in my faith because of that pastor." /Then pastors will say, "The believer I taught grew in faith." /3 John 1:4. /Therefore, pastors and believers must be each other's source of boasting.

/We will continue with chapter 3. /The title is "Preparation for Jesus' Second Coming." /Let's look at the main points. /First, living for the church. /Verses 1-5. /Second, joy through the church. /Verses 6-9. /Third, praying for the church. /Verses 10-13.

/Read verse 1. /So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens.

/Paul longed to visit the church at Thessalonica. /However, Satan kept him from going there. /2:18. /Paul waited for that road to be opened. /However, he could not stand it any longer and he decided to send Timothy to the church at Thessalonica. /Paul wanted to hear news about the church through Timothy.

/Verse 2. /We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,

/Paul sent Timothy to the church at Thessalonica. /He sent him to strengthen the believers' faith. /Paul wanted to go to Thessalonica to comfort the believers there. /He wanted to do this because the church at Thessalonica faced many difficulties. /Thus, Paul sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage the believers.

/Verse 3. /so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.

/The church at Thessalonica faced many trials during that time. /Therefore, there was concern that the believers' faith would be shaken. /Hence, Paul sent Timothy to strengthen the faith of the believers at Thessalonica.

/It is natural for believers to face trials in the world. /Jesus told His disciples to carry their cross and follow Him. /Matthew 16:24. /Those who attempt to live godly lives will receive persecutions. /2 Timothy 3:12. /Acts 14:22.

/Therefore, we must gain victory with faith in the midst of difficulties. /There will be

glory after the hardships pass. /Romans 5:2-4. /Philippians 1:29. /God refines us in our hardships.

/The Lord helps us grow in faith. /We must all remain joyful and endure in our hardships. /There will be glory when we overcome our hardships. /Job 23:10.

/Verse 4. /In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

/Paul told the believers at Thessalonica in advance that there would be hardships. /Then, the church at Thessalonica faced persecutions just as Paul said they would. /Pastors must teach believers that there will be hardships.

/Pastors must prepare believers for hardships. /Then, believers will be able to overcome hardships when they are faced with it. /There will be a great tribulation in the Last Days. /Jesus will return. /Therefore, we must prepare well with faith.

/Verse 5. /For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

/It is easy for believers to become weak and fall when trials and hardships are too much. /When believers fall to temptations, pastors' works will have been done in vain. /Therefore, pastors must encourage believers. /Pastors must help believers so that they do not fall to temptations. /Believers must overcome temptations.

/Verse 6. /But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

/Paul sent Timothy to the church at Thessalonica. /However, Timothy came back. /Timothy came back with good news. /Timothy said, "The believers at Thessalonica have faith and love."

/The believers at Thessalonica thought well of Paul. /They longed to meet Paul. /This was their faith. /Timothy shared this good news with Paul. /Paul rejoiced at the faith of the believers at Thessalonica.

/Verse 7. /Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith.

/Paul forgot all about his distress and persecution when he heard the good news about the church at Thessalonica. /Paul was greatly encouraged. /Paul gained more courage, and he boldly preached the gospel.

/Pastors are encouraged when believers keep their faith. /Pastors gain strength. /Pastors

gain strength when believers walk in the truth. /2 John 1:4.

/Verse 8. /For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

/Pastors live when believers stand firm in the Lord. /Pastors gain strength when believers stand in faith. /Pastors gain courage. /Therefore, we must live with faith.

/Paul loved the believers like his own body. /Paul loved the believers like his own life. /Thus, he rejoiced when good things happened to believers.

/Verse 9. /How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

/Paul rejoiced when he saw the faith of the believers at Thessalonica. /He thanked and praised God. /Pastors are thankful when believers do well. /Pastors gain strength.

/Then, pastors can be more faithful before God. /God rejoices when believers live in faith. /The Lord rejoices when He finds one lost sheep. /Luke 15:6.

/Verse 10. /Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

/Paul heard the good news that the church at Thessalonica stood in love even in the midst of hardships. /Paul heard good news from the church at Thessalonica. /Verse 6. /Paul wanted to visit them and supply them with what they lacked in faith.

/Paul wanted to make their faith complete. /Paul continuously prayed that he could go visit them. /Paul prayed that they would become complete in what they lacked in faith. / We must continue to go in faith.

/Paul prayed day and night for the believers. /Paul really wanted to meet the believers. /We must not have outwardly relationships with other people. /When we meet believers, we must supply them with what they lack in their faith.

/We must help believers become complete in their faith. /We must share the holy gospel and the truth with believers. /Romans 1:10-11.

/Verse 11. /Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

/Paul needed to go to the church at Thessalonica. /Paul prayed to God that he would be able to go to Thessalonica. /Paul wanted to help the believers at Thessalonica in their faith.

/Paul wanted to share the truth of the Bible with them. /Paul sincerely prayed to God. /Paul prayed that the road to the church at Thessalonica would be opened for him. /We

must also pray in this way.

/Then we must go and share the holy truth with believers. /We must help believers become complete in their faith.

/Verse 12. /May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

/The church at Thessalonica was a church of love from the beginning. /1:3. /It was a church that overflowed with faith and love even in times of hardships. /Still, Paul prayed that the church would grow more in love.

/Believers loved one another, but he hoped that their “love increase and overflow for each other.” /Believers had faith, but Paul prayed that their faith would “overflow.” /Do you love God?

/We must all strive to love God even more. /Do you love your neighbors? /We must all strive to love our neighbors even more. /This is the overflow of love. /We must love everyone. /We must love our brothers, /our neighbors, /and even our enemies.

/Verse 13. /May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

/Paul said, “May he strengthen your hearts.” /One cannot keep his faith if he is weak in his heart. /Ezekiel 16:30. /Hebrews 13:9. /We must receive grace for our hearts to be strengthened. /We must receive God’s grace so that we could become strong and courageous.

/Then we will have faith that will not be shaken. /The Lord Jesus said that He would return. /We believers must be holy and blameless when the Lord returns.

/Paul prayed to God that believers would always be holy and blameless. /We must pray for ourselves, /and we must also pray for believers. /We must pray that we would be blameless when Jesus returns.

/The church of Thessalonica waited for Jesus’ return. /We too must wait for Jesus’ return. /We must be well prepared. /Then we must be holy and blameless.

/We must grow in love and faith. /Ephesians 4:15. /We must keep our faith well in this world. /Then we can be complimented and be deemed noble when Jesus returns.

/Here we will conclude the second lecture on 1 Thessalonians. /Thank you.

