

SUNDAY MORNING • 1 & 2 Thessalonians
Proclaiming the Gospel in Selfless Love
1 Thessalonians 2

1. "We had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi" (2:2). Take the time to read Acts 16:11-40 and summarize why Paul would describe his time in Philippi in this way.
2. "We had boldness in our God" (2:2). Why are the last three words of that phrase so important?
3. Why would anyone make an appeal to others "from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive... with words of flattery...a pretext of greed" (2:3,5)?
4. In what way does God "test our hearts" (2:4)?
5. "But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children" (2:7). What does this mean, and in what way does it continue to serve as a model to modern disciples?
6. "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us" (2:8). What should we make of this statement?
7. "We worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you" (2:9). What does this mean? Acts 18:3 might be helpful.
8. "You know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God" (2:11-12). In what way must encouragers sometimes be more like fathers than mothers?
9. How would you summarize the differences between "the word of men" and "the word of God" (2:13)?
10. "So as always to fill up the measure of their sins" (2:16). What does this rather frightening reference mean?