



1 Thessalonians 2:1-6
From Sermon 10.3.21

Read *1 Thessalonians 2:1-6*

Review from Sunday's sermon: The Apostle continues to teach and encourage this young church. The Holy Spirit is having him address function of the church (any true church) and those who serve and minister. It is striking to the modern reader and church member that nothing has changed in Jesus' instructions and expectations of His Church. The scriptural commands are not relative. Equally so, the culture's reaction to biblical faithfulness has also not changed.

1. After focusing on the Thessalonian church *members*, what internal component of the church does Paul address next? The leadership. An analysis of himself to give a model to future Elders, Pastor, Overseers. Note: Elder, Pastor, Administrator, and Overseer are the same office in the New Testament.

2. Read *Acts 16:16-24*. We know Paul faced opposition and rejection in both Thessalonica and Philippi. How did Paul respond to this? He doubled down vs. backing down. He remained faithful to the message even when he fully knew the culture would persecute him.

2a. How does the Western/American church, today, address rejection in the culture? Water down vs. double down. They water down the message to make it more palatable. They have dropped hard, sound doctrine that teaches on sin, judgment, and holiness. They make God out to be a spiritual Santa Claus who grants all your wishes if you just behave.

3. In his preaching and ministry, whom was Paul trying to please? Who was he not concerned with pleasing? See also *Galatians 1:10*. Please = The One true Holy God who called him into this unique vocation. Not concerned about pleasing the crowd, the listeners, or the culture. Even if not an Elder in the church, how can we fall into the same trappings of people pleasing? Various personal answers and insights.

4. When seekers (believers or not) look for a new pastor/teacher, what are some common worldly qualities they look for? Various answers. But, include: education, entertaining, practical, charisma, business/goal oriented, compromise, moderate, outward appearance, ...

4a. However, what does the Bible list as necessary qualities in Church leadership? See also *1 Timothy 3:1-7*. Integrity, faithfulness, living out biblical character, caring, humble, hospitable, able to teach.

5. Discuss and Describe the difference and approach of a pastor who is mostly accountable to the crowd, a governing board, or a denomination vs. one who clearly views his highest judgment comes from God. This will determine the teaching and preaching. God dictates vs. congregation influenced

6. Read *Hebrews 13:16-18*. What are ways a church's members are a blessing to its leaders? What are some ways members can be burdens and distractions? [Don't forget our momentum killers]

Study Guide Homework: Question 10 (page 20)

This passage sets forth 5 key qualities of fail-proof spiritual leadership. How would you assess yourself and your service to God in those 5 areas?

- Tenacity, Integrity, Authority, Accountability, & Humility