



1 Thessalonians 2:17-20  
From Sermon 10.24.21

Read *1 Thessalonians 2:17-20*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Paul's x-ray of the Church now looks at the heart of Elder/Pastors. It's clear: this vocation is far more than a job, career, skill, or qualification. Godly leaders must have a spiritual affection and drive for people. Authentic hearts are revealed by relationships. Pastors, like parents, are given a divine stewardship for which they will be accountable and judged. Even in his absence, Paul's full heart was with the Thessalonians.

1. What three relationships did the Holy Spirit have Paul address concerning godly leaders?

- The Church: Not buildings or his own career. It is the people who gather to be the church.
- The Enemy: the devil/satan. Hard as it is to see—this is also a relationship with biblical guidelines, boundaries, and needed familiarity. Discuss as a group.
- The Lord Jesus: the leader's vital reliance and strength. The godly clergy knows his reward is not (always) in this world, but later in glory.

2. Paul's critics were accusing him of loving self-preservation more than loving the Thessalonians Christians. What words and actions show that was a complete fallacy? See *1 Thessalonians 3:1-6*. Various answers. But, include: Paul's writing two letters to them. Sending Timothy to Thessalonica, when Paul could have really used him in Athens. And, his expressed heartache and longing for them.

3. Which churches would we view as challenging to Paul? Corinth and Galatia  
Which churches would we view as models and joys to Paul? Thessalonica, Rome, Ephesus, ...  
Now: which ones did he love more? See *2 Corinthians 11:28*. He loved them all equally.

4. In Paul's relationship with Satan, what did he know about him that was so critical for the Thessalonians to learn? Various answers. But include we can see/expose his patterns and habits. He looks like the real-deal, an angel of light. He uses people as his puppets. He's set on defeating the weak and the solitary. We are not defenseless in our battle with him. Baby Christians need the protection of strong leaders and church members. See *2 Corinthians 2:10-11, 2 Corinthians 11:14, & 1 Peter 5:8*

5. Paul's relationship with Jesus was going to climax in judgment and reward. What was Paul depending on as evidence of his faithfulness and stewardship? The Churches (believers) that he fathered and disciplined. See *1 Peter 5:1-4*

6. Aside from the leaders/pastors, what is your relationship with the same three entities?

- Church: \_\_\_\_\_
- Enemy: \_\_\_\_\_
- Lord Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

6a. Which one is the most challenging for you? What are some practical things you could do to improve that?