

GLORY AND JOY AT CHRIST'S COMING

Introduction: Paul learned from Timothy that there were some believers in Thessalonica that felt Paul did not care for them since he never returned to visit them. In this chapter, Paul sets forth a detailed vindication of his motives and ministry. He opens this chapter by reminding the Thessalonian believers that in spite of the personal hardships that attended his ministry at Philippi, he went to their city and boldly preached the Gospel to them. Surely that precluded any selfish motives that were charged against him. Paul then went on to tell exactly what his motives and message were. His vindication is very important since it reveals aspects of Paul's character that he would not have expressed under any other situation lest he be accused of boasting.

Lesson Aim: Ask your students to examine the works of their faith to see how sincere they are.

Memory Verse: "Take heed to yourself, and to the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this you shall both save yourself, and them that hear you" (1 Timothy 4:16).

Lesson Outline and Questions to Answer

I. The Description of Paul's Ministry – 2:1, 2

1. How did Paul react to persecution in Philippi that is an example for us? 2:2

II. The Defense of Paul's Ministry – 2:3-16

2. How did Paul defend the purity of his preaching? 2:3

It was not of _____, _____, or _____.

3. How did Paul defend his trustworthiness in handling the Gospel? 2:4

He did not seek to _____ men, but _____, who _____ the heart.

4. How did Paul defend his sincerity? 2:5
5. How did Paul defend his honesty? 2:5
6. How did Paul defend his humility? 2:6
7. How did Paul describe his gentleness with the believers? 2:7
8. Name three ways that Paul described his love for the believers? 2:8
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
9. How does Paul describe his diligence? 2:9
10. How does Paul describe his holy behavior among them? 2:10
11. In what way did Paul minister to them as a father? 2:11
12. What was the goal Paul had for his converts? 2:12
13. Why was Paul thankful when they received the Gospel? 2:13
14. How was the experience of the church in Thessalonica like the churches in Judea? 2:14

III. Defense of Paul's Absence – 2:17-20

15. Why didn't Paul return to encourage the believers in Thessalonica? 2:18
16. What did the believers in Thessalonica mean to Paul? 2:19-20