

Series- Sharing Yourself and Your Faith

Sharing as a learner – one under authority

I Thessalonians 2:1-4

One Job to do pp

Why are we still on earth?

To learn of God (These would be better if we were
To worship God in heaven)

Only one reason – to make disciples of Christ **Matthew 28: 18-20**

Sharing ourselves and our Faith

Biblical Background

Acts 16 Paul first into Europe – Philippi – beaten, jailed
Delivered and jailor and family saved

Acts 17 Paul in Thessalonica – largest city in Macedonia
– **Read 17:4** the Gospel had success and opposition

Letter to church in Thessalonica

Chapter one – Giving thanks for Believers

Chapter two – defense against accusations

Delusional, impure motives, deception, pleasing self

- *Pattern for sharing the Gospel to others*

I. His Manner

A. Visible to all – “You yourselves know” (see **1:4-5**)

The gospel is seen in the lives of all disciple

We are all witnesses of some form of lifestyle

B. Not a failure (not in vain)

Means empty, useless or unsuccessful

Used for results or character – here the 2nd

Same word in **I Corinthians 15:14 and 58**

C. Not for comfort

Beaten, jailed – shamefully mistreated

Despite hardship he was compelled to share

D. Courageously – Bold

Literally “to speak freely and fearlessly”

In spite of much opposition

Note – Not just Paul’s nature **1 Corinthians 2:3**

I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

II. His Message

Not join the church, get wealthy, health and healing

Only one message **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** *Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.*

III. His Method

A. The whole truth – no error or deceit

1 John 1:3 *We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

B. No impure motives

Not to satisfy our needs physically or emotionally

1 Thessalonians 4:7 *God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.*

C. No trickery

The word is the basis for the word decoy

Duck hunters use decoys to attract live ducks

2 Corinthians 4:2 *We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.*

IV. His Motive

A. Approved of God

Redeemed by His mercy and grace

Entrusted by God with the Gospel

B. Not to please men

We will be hated because Jesus was hated

Matthew 10:24-25 *“Students^[a] are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master.”²⁵ Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons,^[b] the members of my household will be called by even worse names!*

Story of man and boy with donkey

Once upon a time, an elderly man was traveling with a boy and a donkey. As they walked through a village, the man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind. The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding...so to please them, he climbed up on the animal's back. When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride. So...to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back and continued on his way. In the third village...people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk and the suggestion was made that they both ride. So...the man climbed on and they set off again. In the fourth village...the townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because it was made to carry two people. The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road. Too many of us are carrying the donkey.

C. Examined by God

He knows our motives for He sees our hearts

Approves and examines – same word

Literally “constantly tests our hearts

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

D. To please God

What a privilege as well as a responsibility

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Lessons to learn from Paul

- 1. God has entrusted us with the most precious message, and it is our responsibility to pass it on*
- 2. We are to do this despite great opposition*
- 3. Our methods must match our message*
- 4. We do this to please God who gave all for us*
- 5. We are never alone – the Teacher, Jesus, is with us*

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MCF

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