



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: Shared

Sermon Title: Can We Share?

Passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:2-7

Connection to 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

A person with a God-centered attitude and character is a credible messenger for the life-changing message of the gospel for those who hear.

Introduction/Opening

Years ago, there was a television ad for bath beads. The advertisements often featured a mother who encountered the stresses of her day: the phone ringing, the children crying, the salesman at the door, and the home appliances breaking—all at the same time! Suddenly, the mother exclaims, “Take me away!” Many of us have felt like that! Often, the stresses of daily life bring about reactions of hopelessness and even despondency.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy could have felt the same way. Rather, they pressed on and were even invigorated to share more. But it wasn't bath beads that caused that. Instead, it was seeing God at work through them that caused them to share Jesus with an eagerness, a genuineness, and a humbleness like never before. We can learn from them when we find ourselves in a “take me away” moment.

Outline

1. Share Jesus with eagerness (v. 2).
 - a. Paul and Silas had been treated with contempt and suffered in Philippi. This suffering included being beaten, shackled, and imprisoned (Acts 16:19-24). However, they also witnessed a miraculous release by the Lord, a miracle that emboldened them to share the gospel even more as they made their way to the church at Thessalonica (Acts 17:1).
 - b. The sharing of the gospel can come with a cost.
 - i. However, the evil of the gospel's opposition can and should be met with the eagerness of the believer. This is because the seeds of the gospel can blossom into new believers of Christ who will one day worship at the feet of Jesus.
 - ii. It should therefore be every Christian's joy to share Jesus with others and to see every tribe and tongue worship Jesus.
2. Share Jesus with genuineness (vv. 3-4).
 - a. Paul, Silas, and Timothy saw their mission of the gospel as a stewardship of a treasure. They were entrusted with the gospel.
 - i. See Luke 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10; Galatians 2:7; 1 Timothy 1:11.
 - ii. New believers were able to see the genuineness of these missionaries as they shared the gospel, despite persecution. The group paid a price to speak the life-giving message of Christ to the people at Thessalonica and elsewhere, but they did not shrink from their proclamation.

- b. While traveling teachers were not uncommon, they typically spoke words to benefit themselves. Paul, however, spoke words that would benefit those who responded to the gospel. Those who benefited illustrated the difference between Paul and the peddlers of man-made philosophies. Paul's message was heavenly truth, not worldly deceptions.
 - c. Today, Christians should share the gospel, not with an aim to impress people, or to fulfill personal goals, but to sincerely please God. When a believer speaks the message about Christ with the love of Christ, God is honored and glorified.
3. Share Jesus with humbleness (vv. 5-7).
- a. Paul demonstrated humbleness of heart in his deep and gentle love for the church in Thessalonica. Here is how the group confirmed their love:
 - i. They didn't seek to flatter.
 - 1. The Greek word used for flattery (kolakeia) related to the practices of traveling philosophers who customized their message to suit their hearers to lure them in and extract income from the audience.
 - 2. See Psalm 12:2-3; Proverbs 26:28; Isaiah 30:10.
 - ii. They didn't seek to receive riches.
 - 1. Paul made it clear that the gospel is not for personal gain. Greed and the gospel have no common root.
 - 2. See Luke 20:47; Philippians 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:9-10.
 - iii. They didn't seek to receive glory.
 - 1. Each person was to seek God's glory (v. 12). The glory of God in the gospel of Christ was enough for any human to take pleasure in.
 - 2. See 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2 Timothy 4:18; Philemon 6.
 - iv. Instead, they sought to be gentle.
 - 1. Paul compared his gentleness to the interaction of a nurse (or nursing mother) with her children (v. 7). The tenderness of such an interaction illustrates how Paul and the others deeply cared for the church.
 - 2. Rather than selfishly taking from the church, Paul worked tirelessly to give to the church.
 - a. This included the greatest treasure that they could provide to others: the treasure of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - b. They became a part of the church in many ways, and their lives demonstrated their love and commitment for the people of the church.
 - b. A heart of humility opens the door for the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of the hearer.

Conclusion

When we share Jesus, lives are changed. This should inspire us to share with eagerness, genuineness, and with a humbleness of heart. This will allow people to look not at us, however imperfect we might be, but to Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith.

So be confident to share Jesus. Share Him with an eagerness to change lives. Share Him with a genuineness to please God. Share Him with humbleness; share Him out of love. Just share Him.

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