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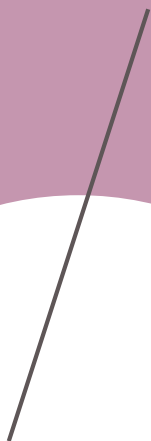
THESSALONIANS

sermon series 2020

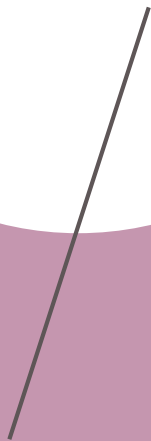
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

PARRAMATTA BAPTIST CHURCH

02



C H A P T E R



02

we dared to tell you



READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2:1-16.

REFLECT:

"with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition." (2:2)

Boldness, courage, endurance. These gave a potency to the witness of the early church, even in the face of strong opposition. We could easily become intimidated by their example, but remember that (in their words) it was only '*with the help of our God*' (v2) that they were able to dare to tell of '*His Gospel*'.

TAKE ACTION:

Name any fears that keep you from sharing the Gospel. Now name some of the characteristics of our God, who is with us always. Pray as you feel led.

Deeper action: Is there someone that fear keeps you from sharing your faith with? Choose to act in faith not fear.

we speak as those approved

READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2:1-16.

REFLECT:

"we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God" (2:4)

For Paul and his companions, every interaction and Gospel appeal came from a desire to please God. They did not witness in order to impress other Christians, to build their own sense of self-worth nor to win arguments.

May our motives always be pure in our relationships with those yet to believe.

TAKE ACTION:

Pray Colossians 4:3-4 over yourself, and look for the conversational doors God opens in your week.

Deeper action: Ask God to open your eyes to the people of peace already in your life. Pray that God would bring more people of peace into your life.

we loved you so much



READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2:1-16.

REFLECT:

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well" (2:8)

It was love that led Paul and his companions to share the Gospel, and it was love that led them to share their lives with the Thessalonians.

When we have genuine love for others, we don't hold them at arms length. Nor do we settle for the superficial with them.

TAKE ACTION:

Take a moment to check in on your own heart. How is your energy, passion and commitment for genuinely loving others going?

Deeper action: If you realize that your energy for loving others has become low, do something today that refills that tank.

56 holy, righteous and blameless

READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2:1-16.

REFLECT:

"You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed." (2:10)

It is hard to overstate the importance of integrity, especially in the context of leadership and discipleship. Who we are often speaks louder than what we say.

TAKE ACTION:

Renew your commitment before the Lord to 'live lives worthy of God' (v12).

Deeper action: Read and reflect on verse 11-12. Consider how you might encourage, comfort and urge another believer this week to join you in living lives worthy of God.

56 you became imitators



READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2:1-16.

REFLECT:

"For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus" (2:14)

There is such power in having a good role model, someone who is worthy of imitation to learn from. Who our heroes are often reveal much about who we want to become.

TAKE ACTION:

Thank God for those who've gone before you, that you were able to look up to and learn from.

Deeper action: Consider who in your life is the kind of believer you are seeking to increasingly become like. Be intentional in seeking to learn from them. Pray about whether asking them to be a mentor in your life might be a next step.