

THESSALONIANS

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Life Group Study Guide | Holy Cross Church

WEEK OF SEPT 23 - 27

OVERVIEW

1 Thessalonians chapter 2 elaborates on the theme of chapter 1; Paul's thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' reception of the gospel. Paul also spends time in chapter 2 intentionally distancing himself from other "traveling preachers" who have come into the city. It was customary for preachers to enter into the city with great showiness in order to gain an audience for their teaching. What motivated these preachers was often money, fame or glory, praise, or simply the desire to draw a crowd. Paul distinguishes his entry into the city and sets himself as an example to follow—and reminds them once again of his genuine concern for their well-being.

READ

Read through the entire text for this study, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

STUDY & APPLY

1. On the surface, it seems as if Paul's primary focus in this passage is on himself and his ministry credentials. However, what word appears repeatedly? Even while defending his genuineness as an apostle, Paul's perspective is relentlessly centered on who?
2. What unhealthy or ungodly motivations exist for ministry that Paul mentions in verses 3-7? Discuss where you might observe these same motivations today?
3. It's easy to point fingers, but we all wrestle with these same unhealthy motivations. How do you see these at work in your life? In your Christian service?
4. What motives does Paul say drive him? How does this contrast with the ungodly motivations mentioned?
5. What are the dangers of a minister (or any person for that matter) who's primary aim in life is to be pleasing to men (or women)?
6. Where does Paul's confidence come from that allows him to live a life free from an identity found in the approval of others? How can we live with this same confidence?

PRAY

Spend a few minutes praying for those people in whom you have invested, whether in a quiet, unnoticed way or in a public way. Pray for their growth and maturity in Christ. Pray that you would have the strength and courage to rest in God's approval of us, through faith in Jesus Christ.