

In the second chapter of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he articulates his motives for bringing the Gospel to that location. He confront what appears to be false accusations from those who are looking to cause trouble and stir up conflict due the confrontational message of Jesus' mercy and kingship offered to the hearts of all mankind.

1 Thessalonians

2:1-12

Ministering

Like

Paul

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Our motives, methods, and mission in life share an interesting relationship. Whether in business, our family, faith, or even hobbies, achieving our mission requires a healthy balance and placement of the motivations to attain what we're striving for. Similarly, our methods of achievement are influenced significantly by our desired outcome (or mission). When any of these components falls out of order or balance, it has the potential to cause significant problems.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHY do you think some are suspicious of Christians, particularly pastors or vocational ministers, and the message they seek to deliver?

HOW important do you think a pure motive is when ministering to others?

EXPLAIN the relationship *motives, methods, and the Mission* share with each other.

HOW would you **DESCRIBE** your personal motives, methods, and ultimate mission when it comes to ministering to others around you.

1 Thessalonians

2:1-12

Ministering Like Paul

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

OBSERVATION

In vs. 1, how does Paul say he, Silas, and Timothy did NOT come to those in Thessalonica?

How does Paul describe coming to the brothers in vs. 2?

According to vs. 4, who was Paul seeking to please?

What does God test, in vs. 4?

In vs. 5-6, what were NOT Paul's motives for coming to Thessalonica?

In verses 7-8 how does Paul describe his ministry?

Describe Paul's conduct mentioned in vs. 9-10.

To whom does Paul compare his ministry in vs. 11-12?

According to vs. 12, what is God's role in Paul's ministry?

INTERPRETATION

What does Paul mean when he says he, Silas, and Timothy's coming was not in vain (vs. 1)? Why does he make this point?

How had Paul and Silas suffered in Philippi (see 16:19-39)? How does this contribute to his argument of not coming to them in vain?

How does God test the heart (vs. 4)? Why is this critical in understanding Paul's *motivation* to minister to the Thessalonians? Consider 1 Samuel 16:7 and Hebrews 4:12.

What demands was Paul able to make as an apostle (vs. 6), and what would forfeiting these things do as he ministered to those in Thessalonica? See 1 Corinthians 9:1-14.

In what specific ways do the two descriptions Paul gives in vs. 7-11 explain his *methods* of ministry?

In vs. 12, what could you conclude to be Paul's ultimate *mission* in ministering to those in Thessalonica?

Explain the three verbs Paul uses in his effort to help his audience walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

APPLICATION

How can Paul's motivation, methods, and ultimate mission influence those things entrusted to you by God?