

Power in the Gospel? 1 Thess.2:1-20

11/11/18, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Living in Expectation)

➤ How does context inform the meaning?

a. Biblical/ historical

▪ Two purposes

- 1) Express Paul's _____ at the report of their steadfastness in the midst of persecution
- 2) _____ Paul and his fellow missionaries against slanderous rumors

b. Literary context (passages surrounding) (1 Thess. 1:5b)

- 1) Witnessed Paul's _____ (ch. 1)
- 2) Witnessed Paul's _____ (ch. 2)
- 3) No credence to the charlatan accusation
- 4) _____ to follow, _____ to be heeded

➤ What is the structure of the passage?

I. The _____ behavior (evidences that rumors of Paul's self-serving interests were false).

- a. _____ in the midst of conflict (v. 2-3)
- b. Not speaking to please _____, but God (v. 4-5)
- c. Did not seek glory, but _____ for them (v. 6-7)
- d. Shared the Gospel and _____; labored so not to be a burden to them (v. 8-9)
- e. Holy, righteous, blameless _____ toward them (v. 10)

II. The **Thessalonians'** behavior (evidence that the _____ is legitimate)

- a. _____ of God who call you (v. 10-12)
- b. Accepted, suffer for the _____ of _____ at work in you (13-16)
- c. Become a source of _____, _____, and _____ for the missionaries (v. 17-20)

✓ Two notes here...

- 1) Vitally important role of personal, _____ to _____ interaction with believers

- _____ knows this!

2) Reminder of the reality of the _____ of the Lord Jesus

- What does this structure reveal about the author's emphasis?
 - Proving that the Gospel message is _____ by
 - 1) How the _____ presented it, themselves
 - 2) How it _____ Thessalonian believers in it
- The author's main idea for *his* audience:
 - The Gospel message is _____ because it is from God, not men; it is resisted by Satan himself; but, because it is empowered by the Holy Spirit, it brings a change to those who embrace it.

➤ What does this mean to you?

How has the Gospel changed you?

- a. Do you have _____ declaring the Gospel?
- b. Do you speak looking to please _____ or to please men?
- c. How deeply do you _____ for other believers?
- d. Do you _____ the Gospel at all? At what _____?
- e. Is your _____ – the way you live your life – holy, righteous, blameless?
- f. Do you walk worthy of God who called you? Did you realize He even *called* you?
- g. Is the word of God at work in you because you have embraced it as _____ in your life and are looking to have it transform your way of living?
- h. Can it be said of you that *your* life could be a _____ of boasting and joy for what Jesus has done in it?

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➤ How does context inform the meaning?

b. Biblical/ historical

▪ Two purposes

3) Express Paul's **joy** at the report of their steadfastness in the midst of persecution

4) **Defend** Paul and his fellow missionaries against slanderous rumors

c. Literary context (passages surrounding) (1 Thess. 1:5b)

1) Witnessed Paul's **character** (ch. 1)

2) Witnessed Paul's **activity** (ch. 2)

3) No credence to the charlatan accusation

4) An **example** to follow and **message** to be heeded

➤ What is the structure of the passage?

III. The **missionaries'** behavior (evidences that rumors of Paul's self-serving interests were false).

a. **Boldness** in the midst of conflict (v. 2-3)

b. Not speaking to please **men**, but God (v. 4-5)

c. Did not seek glory, but **cared** for them (v. 6-7)

d. Shared the Gospel and **themselves**; labored so not to be a burden to them (v. 8-9)

e. Holy, righteous, blameless **conduct** toward them (v. 10)

IV. The **Thessalonians'** behavior (evidence that the **message** is legitimate)

a. **Walk worthy** of God who call you (v. 10-12)

b. Accepted, suffer for the **word of God** at work in you (13-16)

c. Become a source of **boasting**, **glory**, and **joy** for the missionaries (v. 17-20)

✓ Two notes here...

1) Vitally important role of personal, **face to face** interaction with believers

- **Satan** knows this!

2) Reminder of the reality of the **coming** of the Lord Jesus

- What does this structure reveal about the author's emphasis?
 - Proving that the Gospel message is **legitimate** by
 - 1) How the **messengers** presented it and themselves
 - 2) How it **changed** Thessalonian believers in it
- The author's main idea for *his* audience:
 - The Gospel message is **genuine** because it is from God, not men; it is resisted by Satan himself; but, because it is empowered by the Holy Spirit, it brings a change to those who embrace it.

➤ What does this mean to you?

How has the Gospel changed you?

- i. Do you have **Boldness** declaring the Gospel?
- j. Do you speak looking to please **God** or to please men?
- k. How deeply do you **care** for other believers?
- l. Do you **share** the Gospel at all? At what **cost**?
- m. Is your **conduct** – the way you live your life – holy, righteous, blameless?
- n. Do you walk worthy of God who called you? Did you realize He even *called* you?
- o. Is the word of God at work in you because you have embraced it as **authoritative** in your life and are looking to have it transform your way of living?
- p. Can it be said of you that *your* life could be a **source** of boasting and joy for what Jesus has done in it?

