

Bible Study for February 14th and 16th

Originally applied to Paul's ministry. Convicting and challenging as a pastor. Applicable to every leader/servant of the church (deacons, SS teachers, children's workers, etc.). Also, to every member who is seeking to minister to one another. We are a kingdom of priests!

Paul refers to His coming to Thessalonica from Philippi and what happened there.

What Faithful Ministry is Not (vv. 1-6):

- A. Not False (Not deceitful, tricky/manipulative)
- B. Not Men-Pleasing (Our job is to please God)
- C. Not Greedy (Not taking advantage financially, not televangelist)
- D. Not Glory-seeking (not building their platform)

What Faithful Ministry is (vv. 7-12):

- A. Gentle, like a Nursing Mother.

2 Timothy 2:24–26 – And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

- B. Hard-working, like a Laborer.

1 Corinthians 15:10 – But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

- C. Instructive, like a Father.

Ephesians 6:2 – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 4:11-16 – And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Weekly Bible study meets each Tuesday (except following a holiday) and Thursday in Capitol Annex Room 436 from 11:30 am till noon. It is the same study both days to allow flexibility for committee schedules.

What Faithful Ministry Produces (vv. 13-16):

A. Reception of the Word.

See 1:6. Work of the Spirit in conjunction with the Word. This gives me confidence in preaching. I know that God has chosen to use the preaching of His Word to save the lost. It should give you confidence as you share the gospel with your friends and family.

B. Fruitful Imitation

See 1:7. This is the goal—to produce disciple-making disciples who are willing to suffer and even die for the cause of the gospel.

Conclusion:

This give us all an opportunity to reflect on how we are ministering to others. How can this passage apply to servant-leaders in our state legislature?

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