



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

BIBLICAL SERVANTHOOD

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As Elected Officials you often carry the title "Civil Servant." You are elected to serve. If you have not yet noticed, your constituents call upon you for various reasons. The summation of all their concerns is "what can you do for me," or as the song indicates, "what have you done for me lately?"

Those to whom you minister must see in you a genuine concern for their interest. They need to see you voting on legislation that will affect their interests and concerns no matter how minuscule it may be in your own eyes.

In ministry, the mindset is the same. You are known by your service, your ministry, and your servant's heart; all of which give credence to the sincerity of your call.

To have effective ministry both in political and religious arenas, you must have a solid creditability that will withstand the scrutiny of both your friends and foes which is difficult and cumbersome at times. It will tax you to your limits and in the process, God will use the difficulties to bring about His intended purposes.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 "But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us. For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy."

Paul begins this section "*But we*" reminding his readers about their departure from Thessalonica. We read this in Acts 17:1-10 where Paul and Silas came, ministered, and preached Christ's suffering, death and resurrection in their synagogues.

Their entrance was missional while their departure became confrontational. The Jews became jealous, formed a mob, and caused a riot, arresting Jason and after he giving a pledge sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.

Biblical Servanthood Demands—A Heart for Those to Whom You Minister; You Understand the Hindrances and Schemes of Satan; That Ultimately Your Hope is in Heaven.

1. HEART FOR THOSE TO WHOM YOU MINISTER:

Paul and his missionary team had spent a short time in Thessalonica. It was not the quantity of time, but the quality of time that resonated with Paul. Paul preached three Sabbaths and during these three weeks he imparted his heart to those Thessalonians.

The text uses a strong word (**ἀπορφανίζω**) **aporphanizo** "having been taken away from" bereft, bereaved of from **ἀπό** = preposition meaning from, away from, speaks of a rupture of a former relationship or any separation of one thing from another by which the union or fellowship of the two is destroyed + **ορφανός** = an orphan, a child deprived of one or usually both parents means to be made or caused to be an orphan and figuratively speaks of an unwanted separation as when one is torn away from, deprived of contact and society or unwillingly separated from. **Aporphanizo** can also be used to mean the separation of parents from children and a lover from his beloved. **Aporphanizo** is also used in a more broad sense to indicate the loss of any friend or relative.

Paul's statement expressed the parental love he had among the believers in Thessalonica, and now being separated from them, caused feelings of being ripped apart by their absence. It was used of a parentless child, or of childless parents, and even in a general sense of any

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAY AT 8:00AM, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

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severe deprivation or desolation.¹ The use of this word points back to the parental pictures in verses 7 and 11.

I have been here in South Carolina for 9 years and this is our 10th Legislative Session. I have developed, by God's grace and favor, a deep love for our political people-group. This love comes from the Lord Himself. And I must conclude with the Apostle Paul that my joy and crown will be those whom I serve among, becoming more like Christ because I ministered and labored among this community. My goal is to see you all "y'all" become more Christ-like because I opened the Scripture, read it, and explained it while allowing God to apply it to various needs in each of our lives.

When the expositional process of Scripture takes place, the spiritual combat commences as did with Paul when he concluded that his return to Thessalonica was derailed by Satan's schemes.

In conclusion, you must have a parental heart that seeks the genuine concerns and benefits of others if you are to develop a heart for whom you serve--the tenderness of a mother and the exhortation of a father.

¹ Fritz Rienecker, edited by Cleon L. Rogers, *A Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*, Regency, Grand Rapids, p. 593