

"ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST"

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

TEXT: VERSE 4

INTRO: One of the TREMENDOUS HONORS we as BELIEVERS in CHRIST have is the PRIVILEGE of **SERVING HIM ON A REGULAR BASIS**. Each Christian is a **MINISTER OF GOD** and has a **SPIRITUAL GIFT, WHICH IS A GOD-GIVEN ABILITY TO SERVE THE LORD**. But it is important that WE ALL SERVE THE LORD EFFECTIVELY. The passage of scripture we will look at today gives some great principles in SERVING THE LORD EFFECTIVELY based upon the fact that we are **ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL**.

CONTEXT: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 is Paul's testimony of his ministry in Thessalonica along with the team of Silas and Timothy. In these verses are QUALITIES that **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE IN THEIR MINISTRY**. Because Paul had these qualities in his ministry, it was effective (Vs. 1). **When we have these qualities in our ministries, we will be effective as well!**

TEN QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE MINISTRY:

- 1) Boldness-Vs. 2; 2) Purity-Vs. 3; 3) The Goal to Please God-Vs. 4; 4) Without flattery or a false pretense-Vs. 5; 5) Selflessness-Vs. 6; 6) Gentleness- Vs. 7
- 7) Sacrificial-Vs. 8; 8) Diligence-Vs. 9; 9) Faithfulness-Vs. 10; 10) Fatherly-Vs. 11

OBSERVATION: Paul's purpose for discipling the Thessalonians was that **"THEY WOULD WALK WORTHY OF GOD."** This is the **APPROPRIATE GOAL** of each of us in our ministry....**TO LEAD OTHERS TO A WORTHY WALK BEFORE GOD.**

TODAY WE WILL FOCUS ON THE VERY CORE OF THE MINISTRY EACH CHILD OF GOD HAS RECEIVED FROM GOD HIMSELF. THAT A CORE OF OUR MINISTRY IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD TO BE PUT IN TRUST WITH THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO VERSE 4.

NOTE: The meaning of "ALLOWED" and "IN TRUST" in verse 4:

- 1) The word "ALLOWED" means **"TO BE APPROVED."**
- 2) The phrase "IN TRUST" means **"TO ENTRUST OR PUT IN TRUST WITH."**

THE POINT: **GOD HAS APPROVED EACH BELIEVER TO BE A TRUSTEE OF THE GOSPEL AND TO COMMUNICATE IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT PLEASES GOD, TO WHOM WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT AS TO HOW WE PROCLAIMED IT.**

I. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE GOSPEL – 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

A. The General Meaning of the word "GOSPEL."

1. That which is **ABSOLUTELY TRUE**.
2. A Set of Principles or Beliefs

B. The Biblical Meaning of the word "GOSPEL."

-THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TO BE RECEIVED BY FAITH, ON THE BASIS OF HIS ATONING DEATH, HIS BURIAL, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION BACK TO HEAVEN.

THE GOSPEL IS THE BEST NEWS ANYONE CAN RECEIVE

II. THE EFFECT OF THE GOSPEL – ROMANS 1:16

A. The Gospel is the Power of God

1. "Power" is "DUNAMIS" = **DYNAMITE**
2. The Gospel is **the DIVINE ENERGY** with innate **POWER** to accomplish a **DIVINE PURPOSE**.

B. The Gospel Fulfills the Purpose of God

The Gospel provides Salvation, the Deliverance from Sin to Everyone that Believes

1. To the Jew First – In the sense of **PRESENTATION**, not **PRIORITY**
2. To the Gentile – To the **WHOLE WORLD** – **NO ONE EXCLUDED**.

THE GOSPEL SAVES ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IT

III. THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL – MARK 16:15

- A. A Progressive Proclamation – “GO”
- B. A Personnel Proclamation – “YE”
- C. A Perceptive Proclamation – “ALL THE WORLD”
- D. A Proclaimed Proclamation– “PREACH THE GOSPEL”
- E. A Prospective Proclamation – “TO EVERY CREATURE”

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IS A FOR EVERY BELIEVER IN CHRIST

IV. THE HINDRANCE OF THE GOSPEL

- A. Through Satan who Blinds the Unbeliever – 2 Corinthians 4:3,4
- B. Through the Believer who Does Not Share the Gospel – Romans 10:14,15

THE BELIEVER WHO REFUSES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IS DOING THE WORK OF SATAN...THINK OF THAT SERIOUSLY

APPLICATION AND LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-18

- 1) A Chastisement is given to BELIEVERS who do not Proclaim the Gospel – Vs. 16
- 2) A Reward is given to BELIEVERS who do Proclaim the Gospel – Vss. 17,18

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL IS “ENTRUSTED” TO EACH AND EVERY BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST. THE BELIEVER WHO DOES NOT PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL THAT IS COMMITTED TO HIM WILL EXPERIENCE THE CHASTISEMENT OF GOD. THE BELIEVER WHO DOES PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL THAT IS COMMITTED TO HIM WILL BE REWARDED.

- CHASTISED OR REWARDED ON EARTH
- REWARDED OR LOSS OF REWARD AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST