

1 Thessalonians 2:6-12

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Sunday Morning
April 5, 2009

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The Heartbeat of the Minister

REVIEW

In Chapter 2 we find Paul pouring out his heart in regards to ministry – “Ministry 101”

We have learned about the inseparable and crucial connection between the integrity of the message and the integrity of ministry.

We have been given an insight into the very heart of Paul to see the HEARTBEAT of the minister. We have seen that the heart of Paul beats for The GLORY of God! Such a heart beat can ONLY come from a life transformed by the indwelling life and power of Jesus. Who had a single agenda – the Glory of God the Father. Who set it forth as the single agenda of the citizen in His Kingdom – Let your light so shine that they might see your good works and GLORIFY your Father who is in heaven.

We have seen that within the heart of Paul was beating the very love of God for the men and women of Thessalonica. v. 7 - But we were gentle among you.

Among you = in your midst.

This is the heart of Jesus in the life of Paul.

[Matthew 1:23 ESV](#) “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

In Luke 7 we were given an insight into the FREQUENCY and INTIMACY and COMPANY. The enemies of Jesus accused Him of being a “glutton and a drunk” – and “a friend of tax collectors and sinners”

Paul DESCRIBES this gentleness by way of a simile (= like something)

[1 Thessalonians 2:7 ESV](#) 7But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

Paul is saying that he didn’t feed on them, he fed them. With the eyes of Jesus, Paul saw them as precious children – With the heart of Jesus Paul was GENTLE, LIKE a nursing mother with her children.

AGAIN – Paul makes reference to his INTEGRITY as a minister in order to affirm the INTEGRITY of their message and ministry.

11For you know how, like a father with his children, 12we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and



charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

NOTE AGAIN — The use of SIMILE

1 Thessalonians 2:11 ESV 11For you know how, like a father with his children,

CRUCIAL OBSERVATION:

When speaking of the WAY that he took care of the flock Paul compared himself to a nursing mother. Within the minister there should be a heart that beats with the tenderness and care and nurturing of a nursing mother for her children, BUT when he speaks of INSTRUCTING the flock he compares himself to a father.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

QUOTE Heibert — simile of the father shows the sterner aspect of their love for their children. The apostles dealt with them not with the severity of the taskmaster, but with the earnest concern of the father intent upon training his children according to their individual needs. The figure of a father was commonly used by Jewish teachers to denote their relationship to their pupils. Converted under their ministry, the Thessalonian believers were indeed the writers' spiritual children who needed their instruction and guidance.

REMEMBER — This is MINISTRY 101 — In Paul's ministry we see that the heart beat of the Minister. The heart beat of the Ministry can not be ONE dimensional. Ministry can not be void of tenderness, but it must also include the strength and firmness of a father.

ILLUSTRATION:

Children in a single parent household KNOW the shortfall of one dimensional parenting. The best dad in the world can never give what a mother can give. The best mom in the world can never give what a dad can give. God in His infinite wisdom designed the family to include both dimensions. Broken families not only wreck the hearts of husbands and wives but they rob the children.

As a spiritual dad, Paul says that, we never robbed our children in the faith. We were tender and gentle like nursing moms, we were firm and strong like dads.

APPLICATION:

Some are strong at one dimension and weak in the other. God wants us to be found abiding in Jesus so that we can have a balance in our personal place of service within the Body of Christ.

You might be saying — But I'm the tender and gentle type and I find it so hard to be firm.
Or - I'm the strong and firm type and I find it so hard to be gentle.

WHERE am I going to find what is lacking?

ONCE AGAIN — The heartbeat of the minister/ministry can ONLY come from a living and vital relationship with Jesus — Jesus was NOT one dimensional

We read in John's account of the life of Jesus

John 1:14 ESV 14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus was moved with compassion for the multitudes who were like sheep without a shepherd, was so tender in his dealings with the woman caught in adultery, wept at the tomb of Lazarus, sobbed convulsively over Jerusalem because they had rejected Him because he knew what would happen to them in 70AD.

But Jesus ALSO rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith on the Sea of Galilee. In the synagogue in Capernaum we are told that and he looked around at (the religious leaders) them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart [Mark 3:5 ESV](#). Called the Scribes and Pharisees whitewashed tombs full of death. Called them the blind leading the blind. Turned over the tables in the temple precincts.

The Christian life is all about Jesus! Church life is all about Jesus!

[2Peter 1:3-4 ESV](#) *3His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him(A) who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

KEY OBSERVATION:

This fatherly love that beat within Paul's ministry moved him to do THREE THINGS

[1 Thessalonians 2:12 ESV](#) *12we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

Exhorted - This word is related to the word appeal in verse 3. [1 Thessalonians 2:3 ESV](#)

parakaleo from para = side of + kaléo = call = call urgently)

KEY INSIGHT:

Paul repeatedly uses parakaleo in his communication to the Thessalonians here and also in:

- [1 Thessalonians 3:2 ESV](#)
2and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith,
- [1 Thessalonians 3:7 ESV](#)
2and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith,
- [1 Thessalonians 4:1 ESV](#)
1Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.
- [1 Thessalonians 4:10 ESV](#)
10for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,
- [1 Thessalonians 4:18 ESV](#)
18Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- [1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV](#)
11Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
- [1 Thessalonians 5:14 ESV](#)
14And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.
- [2 Thessalonians 2:17 ESV](#)
17comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.
- [2 Thessalonians 3:12 ESV](#)
12Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

It carries with it the basic idea of calling one alongside to help or give aid, to entreat, to appeal to, to comfort, to exhort, or to encourage. Our English word "encourage" means literally "with heart." To encourage in a sense is to give them new heart. In classic Greek parakaleo was used of exhorting troops about to go into battle. At the root there is the idea of enabling a person to meet some difficult situation with confidence and with courage

Encouraged - paramutheomai

This word occurs only 4 times in Scripture...

- [John 11:19 ESV](#)

19and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to **console** them concerning their brother.

- [John 11:31 ESV](#)

31When the Jews who were with her in the house, **consoling** her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

- [1 Thessalonians 2:11 ESV](#)

11just as you know how we were exhorting and **encouraging** and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

- [1 Thessalonians 5:14 ESV](#)

14And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, **encourage** the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

This word emphasizes the soothing and encouraging side of exhortation, inspiring the converts to continue the desired course of action in the face of failure.

QUOTE:

Wiersbe - Wiersbe explains paramutheomai noting that...This word carries the same idea of "encouragement," with the emphasis on activity. Paul not only made them feel better, but he made them want to do better. A father must not pamper a child; rather, he must encourage the child to go right back and try over again. Christian encouragement must not become an anesthesia that puts us to sleep. It must be a stimulant that awakens us to do better.

Charged

Marturomai from mártus = witness. In its original sense meant summon to witness and thus conveys the idea of testifying in affirmation or exhortation.

QUOTE:

J. Vernon McGee - marturomai has a note of severity in it—it involves discipline. It is a virile word, a robust, firm, masculine word. I'm afraid that we find a lot of sissy preaching in our pulpits today. The popular thing is to have a little sermonette given by a preacherette to Christianettes. There is so little urgency. Someone has defined the average church service in a liberal church as when a mild-mannered man gets up before a group of mild-mannered people and urges them to be more mild-mannered. Oh, that is sickening, my friend!

DON'T MISS THIS

They exhorted them — They encouraged them — they charged them to walk in a manner worthy of God

Walk = literally to go here and there in walking, to tread all around.

Most NT uses are figurative meaning to conduct one's life, to order one's behavior, to behave, manner of living. WALK is a term used time and again to speak of our relationship with the Lord. It corresponds beautifully to the words of Jesus when He said "FOLLOW Me" — "COME AFTER Me." There is a very real sense in which the life of faith is one of resting and sitting and waiting.

- Resting in the finished work of the cross.
- Sitting at the feet of Jesus in worship and to receive instruction.
- Waiting on the Lord in prayer — for direction

BUT — none of those are to the exclusion of WALKING. Following Jesus — living out our faith in Christ.

Psalms 1 - Blessed is the man who walks not in... Nor stands in the way of sinners... nor sits in the seat...

NOTE THE DIGRESSION from walking to standing still to sitting.

[Eph 2:1-3 ESV](#) *1And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

- Before Jesus we walked here and there — conducted our lives within a certain sphere, dead in the

trespasses and sins in which you once walked.

- Before Jesus we walked here and there – conducted our lives in a certain way, lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind.

But **NOW** we who were once **DEAD** in sin have been **MADE ALIVE** in Christ. We now walk in the **NEWNESS** of life. And **IF** we are truly in Christ – our pattern of living and manner of conduct will look different.

WORTHY = axios -> weighing as much as -> has the root meaning of balancing the scales -> what is on one side of the scale should be equal in weight to what is on the other side.

The **WAY** we live – the **THINGS** for which we live – should correspond to our new life and position as a child of God and fellow heir with Christ. Our practical living should “weighs as much as” (axios) the gospel we preach and the faith they profess.

One side of the scale –

Here is what they say they believe

The other side of the scale –

Here is what their lives look like

[Titus 2:11-14 ESV](#) 11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

CRUCIAL:

A WALK that is WORTHY of God – results in the GLORY of God.

Paul states in these terms:

[Eph 1:12 ESV](#) 12so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Peter put in these terms:

[1 Peter 2:9 KJV](#) 9But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light

[1 Peter 2:11-12 ESV](#) 11Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

We are brought full circle back to the very heart beat of Paul’s life and ministry – the Glory of God.

- This was the supreme end of his own life
- This was the supreme end of his preaching of the Gospel
- This was the supreme end of his teaching ministry

That men and women would WALK/LIVE in a way that is consistent/axios with the New Life given to us in Christ, which would EXALT and GLORIFY their great God and Savior!

CRUCIAL

Paul is not exhorting them, encouraging them, charging them to walk worthy of God in order to be accepted by God. **They are to walk worthy BECAUSE they have been accepted by God IN Christ.** Not FOR

acceptance, but FROM acceptance.

EXAMPLE: Paul to the Ephesians

Paul spends three chapters exhausting the Greek language in telling them all that God the Father has done for them IN and THROUGH and WITH and BY Jesus Christ. ONLY THEN does he begin Chapter 4 with the words:

[Eph 4:1 ESV](#) 1I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

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