

Recap of 2/16/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6):

1. In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul pours out his heart for the ministry. He talks about the motives behind his ministry in 2:1-6 and the manner and models for his ministry in 2:7-12.

-Suffering didn't stop Paul, he was faithful in spite of opposition.

-He wasn't motivated by sinful goals, his motives were sincere as one who would give an account to God

-He wasn't trying to gain the praise of men, but acted with integrity.

2. Paul saw himself as a steward, one entrusted with resources of another. He saw himself as God's steward.

-“A steward manages the possessions of another. We are all steward of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and each of us must one day give an account of the manner in which we have used them. The basis for reward is faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:2). It is humbling to realize that nothing we are or possess is really our own, The time, talent, material possessions and relationships we have been given are merely consigned to us by God for a few decades. To what degree are you conscious of God's ownership of everything which you call your own? Have you developed a 'stewardship mentality'—a growing awareness that you will one day give an account of how you have used the trusts you have been granted?” (Source: Handbook to Leadership)

-Joseph, in Genesis 39:1-6 is a good biblical example of a steward.

-Paul taught the concept of being a steward in other places: 1 Corinthians 4:2,4:7; 1 Corinthians 9:16,17.

-Stewards will be called to account for their stewardship (Luke 16:1,2).

-The test of stewardship of our resources, relationships, abilities, opportunities, and time is faithfulness.

3. Paul did not adjust his message to tickle the ears of the hearers.

-“To please men is a preacher's subtlest temptation. This temptation is seen in many ways. It may be to tone down on the moral standards set forth in the Bible, even to living a life in keeping with the mores of the age. Or it may be to preach contrary to the clear teaching of the gospel as to God's redemptive purpose, work and demands (see Gal. 1:10)...No preacher can avoid the social implication of the gospel and claim to preach all the gospel. His aim should be to please God, who test the heart to see if it is genuine (Gk., same as for 'approved').” (Hobbs)