

Recap of 3/1/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12):

1. -“Several of the church fathers pointed out that Paul likens himself to a nursing mother when he speaks of cherishing these believers, but to a father when he speaks of training them.” ...”As far as love is concerned, Paul is eager to wrap these young believers up in his arms. As far as nurture is concerned, Paul steps back and treats each individual with the respect due to a person who is a responsible individual. No matter how much we love others, we cannot baby them when it comes to nurture.” (Richards)

2. Paul uses the example of the way parents care for their children as a model for his own ministry. In the previous section (verses 7-9) he speaks of the gentleness of a mother, who nourished her child and provides for his or her needs, who not only imparts life, but makes sacrifices. In the present section (verses 10-12), he speaks of the guidance and instruction of a father, setting the right example (vs. 10), challenging, encouraging, and admonishing his children (vv. 11-12a), and setting the right goals before them (vs. 12b). Paul sees these Thessalonian converts as his spiritual children. They are immature and need guidance, instruction, and correcting.

3. Paul’s goal for these believers is a worthy lifestyle, worthy of the God who saved them and brought them into His kingdom. God calls His children to holiness and obedience. Our conduct should reflect God’s character and His standard.

-The Scripture in a number of places calls believers to live lives worthy of God (Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10, 28; and 3 John 4)

-“In the New Testament as in the Old Testament the people of God must display the character of God.” (F.F. Bruce)

- “How important it is to be good examples before young believers! Children do what we do, not what we say.” “Does your example as a Christian make it easier for others to grow?” (Wiersbe)