

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:00 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Training Class5:00 P.M.
 Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 August 18, 2019

Preaching that Pleases God
(1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

by Bryan Gibson

I started preaching about 36 years ago, and since that time I have relied heavily on the following passage. I've still got much work to do to live up to it, but I'm thankful for the goals it sets before me. So first, read it carefully (on the next page), and then look at the important lessons taught within.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12: For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. (2) But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. (3) For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. (4) But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our

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hearts. (5) For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. (6) Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. (7) But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. (8) So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. (9) For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (10) You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; (11) as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, (12) that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

The Content of our Teaching

No surprise here, it's "the gospel of God" (vv. 2, 8, 9). Sermons that feature just a little gospel and a whole lot of something else—they will please some people, but they won't build faith and they won't save souls.

The Motive Behind our Teaching

Never to please men (v. 4), or to gain glory for ourselves (v. 6). If either is our motive, we will eventually compromise the truth, and we just can't let that happen. It's not money we're after either (v. 5), but souls (v. 8). What keeps us going is the

desire to please God (v. 4), and the longing we have for the souls of others (v. 8).

The Manner of our Teaching

Balance is the key. Boldness (v. 2), yes, because the truth won't always be popular. But, the delicate nature of souls requires us to also be "gentle...just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children" (v. 7). Combine both the characteristics of a mother and a father (v. 11), and we're on the right track. Sometimes we need to exhort, sometimes we need to comfort, and sometimes we need to charge (v. 11). The faithful preacher constantly strives to find the proper balance.

Our Conduct

Teaching is accomplished both by word and by deed, and so we should behave "devoutly and justly and blamelessly" (v. 10).

Our Reward

What a joy to see those whom we have taught "walk worthy of God" (v. 12), and an even greater joy for them to be "in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming" (v. 19).

