

Don't Blame Paul

(1 Th.2:1-12)

1 Th.2:1-12

- Jews: Paul has criminal record. Ac.17:5-7
- Greeks: Ac.17:8-9
- Paul was the cause. What will brethren think now?

I. Don't Shoot The Messenger

Paul's mission, 1-3 (= 1:9)

- Not in vain, 1
 - Hollow, empty, a failure.
 - Thessalonian church: success.
- Despite abuse at Philippi / Thessalonica, 2.
 - Spitefully treated at Philippi. 1 Tim.1:13
 - Much conflict [agony; under great strain, in face of great opposition]

Paul, persecuted in Philippi,
went to Thessalonica for more

Paul's mission, 1-3 (= 1:9)

- Sincere, 3
 - Our *exhortation, appeal*: of soldiers before battle.

“Encouragement was necessary for hired soldiers, but for those who fight for life and country, no exhortation is required” – RR

Paul's mission, 1-3 (= 1:9)

- Not from error
 - 2 Tim.3:13 . . . Ac.8:9 . . . Ac.13:6-10
 - Deceit:

“There has probably never been such a variety of religious cults and philosophic systems as in Paul's day ... ‘Holy men’ of all creeds and countries, popular philosophers, magicians, Astrologers, crackpots, and cranks; the sincere and the spurious, the righteous and the rogue, swindlers and saints, jostled and clamored for the attention of the believing and the skeptical” – Neil

Paul's mission, 1-3 (= 1:9)

- Not from uncleanness
 - Filthy, dirty
 - No impure motives: ambition, pride, greed, popularity...
 - Paul writes from Corinth – center of Aphrodite worship – immorality kept them going.
 - Churches today tolerate . . .

immodesty

immorality

irreverence

indifference

Paul's mission, 1-3 (= 1:9)

- Not from deceit
 - Honest, not fraudulent
 - No bait and switch
 - Mk.12:40, Pharisees devour widows' houses...

Paul's message, 4

- Approved, 5:21; then, entrusted
 - God, the heart-knower, Ac.1:24
 - He also chose Paul

Paul's motive, 5-9

- No flattery, 5. Ro.16:18
- No finances (cloak), 5. 1 Tim.6:5
- No fame, 6. Verse 2
- No force, 7
- Loved them, 7. Dt.22:6. 1 K.1:2. Ep.5:29
- Longed for them, 8
- Lived for them, 8
- Labored as slave, 9

Paul's morality, 10-11

- Two witnesses –
 1. Thessalonians (outer conduct) v.1
 2. God (inner desires) v.5, 10
 - No accusation against him would stick
- Devoutly, holily, in manner pleasing to God
- Justly, in upright manner...
- Blamelessly, includes both of the preceding
- Paternally, as Father, 11 (cf. 7, mother).
Paul, 1 Co.4:15

Paul's mandate, 12

- That (so that, NASB) . . .
 - Pleaded, encouraged them to turn from sin to serving God (1:9-10)
 - Walk worthily of God – live in way that God deserves. Lk.23:41

I. Don't Shoot The Messenger

II. Don't Shun The Mission

If you share the gospel . . .

- Some will slander you, question your motives, judge your behavior (as with Paul)
- Best answer: **PURE LIFE.** 1 Pt.2:12
 - Expect it. Mt.5:10-12
 - Consider source.
 - Be joyful. Lk.6:23
- Wrong answer: “I take the fifth”
 - 1 Co.9:16
 - Lk.12:4-5

Do not share the gospel
if you're unwilling to live it

- **Philip:** followed Jesus, Jn.1:...43-49
 - **Philip** found Nathanael, 1:45
- **Nathanael:** can anything good come from Nazareth? 1:46
- **Philip:** come and see, 1:46
- **Jesus:** saw Nathanael . . . “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” 1:47
- **Nathanael:** confesses Christ – 1:48-49