



DIGGING DEEPER

1 Thessalonians 2v1-16 – A Faithful Minister

PLEASE READ – 1 Thessalonians 2v1-16

GETTING STARTED

Recap from chapter 1 the progress of the gospel that leads to a flourishing church...

When Timothy returned from Thessalonica with good news, was that the only news he came back with? How do you know? (See 2v3-5)

Paul defends his ministry and in so doing gives us a lovely summary of the marks of a faithful minister – let's think about 4 of those marks...

1) PERSEVERANCE (v1-2)

Read Acts 16v22-24 as well as 1 Thessalonians 2v1-2 and chat about the 'perseverance' you see in the ministry of Paul...

Does this apply to us in the same way? If so, what lessons are there for us to learn?

2) STEWARDSHIP (v3-5)

What were Paul's opponents saying about him and how does Paul respond?

What does good stewardship of the gospel look like?

What does a faithful appeal (v3) look like?

3) SACRIFICE (v6-9)

Chat about the picture of the nursing mother and how Paul uses that to help us understand the role of a faithful minister...

In what ways does that picture particularly challenge you?

4) INTEGRITY (v10-12)

What does the picture of the Father add to our understanding of faithful ministry? Talk about his character (v10) and his concern (v12)...

In what ways does that picture particularly challenge you?

What is the main thing God is calling you to pray into as a result of this study?

Meditate on the words of Paul below...

1 Thessalonians 2v11-12: For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.