

Discussion & Reflection Questions



Date: 9/27/2020

Sermon: "Pleasing God," 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

Main Point: In an effort to protect and expand the gospel, Paul defends his ministry as a faithful steward by addressing his manner, motives, and methods.

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

Sunday:

Reflect on the fact that our manner, motives, and methods will clearly reveal whether our primary mission as a Church is pleasing people or pleasing God. This week, let this be your daily prayer: "God, in all that I say, in all that I do, in all that I am, I seek to please you today!"

Monday:

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2. What has Paul been dealing with in his ministry, and what does this say about his motives in preaching the gospel? When you face challenges while trying to do God's work, how has God helped you to persevere and not give up?

Tuesday:

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:3. What are the three accusations that Paul is defending against here, and how would Paul's ministry be affected if any of these accusations were true? What kind of "impure motives" do you need to guard against as you minister God's love and truth to others?

Wednesday:

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and 2:6. How might Paul's ministry turn out differently if his primary aim was to "please people" instead of to "please God"? What are some of the costs of pleasing Jesus, and how do they compare to the rewards of pleasing Jesus?

Thursday:

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:5. Why might false teachers use flattery if they had a selfish, greedy motive in their ministry? How did Paul seek to demonstrate financial integrity? How can the Church seek to demonstrate financial integrity in our current culture?

Friday:

As you reflect on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6 as a whole, what is your biggest takeaway and/or an adjustment that God is calling you to make in the way you minister to others?