

Sermon Outline

NOT WITHOUT RESULTS ... | Geoff Lin

Readings: Acts 16:35 - 17:10a; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Q. Is this the least successful mission trip ever?

1. "Our visit to you was not without results" (1:1)

1 Thess 2:1 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results.

1 Cor 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith

2. How Paul lived amongst the Thessalonians (1:2-6)

1 Thess 2:2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, *we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.* 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you.

- "approved by God" = lit. "tested by God", who "tests our hearts"

- "not trying to please people" (v4) and "not looking for praise from people" (v6)

- approved by God to be entrusted with His gospel

Q. How do you respond to being told that GOD is your witness?

3. Paul's metaphors to describe how he lived amongst the Thessalonians (1:7-12)

1 Thess 2:7 Instead, we were like **young children** among you. Just as **a nursing mother** cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. *Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.* 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as **a father** deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

i. "We were like **young children** among you" (v7a)

ii. "Just as **a nursing mother** cares for her children, so we cared for you" (vv7b-10)

- "we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well ..."

- "be a burden" (v9) = "assert our authority" (v4)

iii. "We dealt with each of you as **a father** deals with his own children" (vv11-12)

"I, _____, intend to encourage, comfort and urge the members of my church family to live lives worthy of God, who calls us into His kingdom and glory"

For discussion: what would help live this out? What would hinder?

4. How God was at work amongst the Thessalonians (vv13-16)

1 Thess 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. 14 For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews 15 who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone 16 in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

1 Thess 1:6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

Q. Is Paul anti-Semitic?

Q. Is this the least successful mission trip ever?

Thinking about the site redevelopment ...

1 Thess 1:8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.