

A PATTERN FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday, June 16, 2024 ▪ Brad Manley

1. Proclamation of the _____ 1, 2

2. Principled _____ 3-6

3. Proper _____ 7-12

4. Personal _____ 8

5. Praise for Spiritual _____ 13-16

1 Thessalonians 2

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹ For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,¹ ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶ by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: On a scale of 1-10 how important is disciple making to you personally?

Read and Discuss 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

1. In what way does verse 2 reflect how deeply Paul treasured both the Gospel and the Thessalonian believers? When has your love for God and others motivated you to take risks to share the Gospel?
2. In verses 3-6, Paul describes what motivated his outreach to the Thessalonians. List those things by which Paul refused to be motivated. What was his primary motivator? How have you struggled with some of these elements in your own motivation to minister to others? What helps you maintain proper motivation in your efforts to disciple people?
3. How would you characterize Paul's demeanor toward the Thessalonians as expressed in verses 7-12? What does this tell you about the importance of personal relationships in ministering to others. Why is it critical in our serving to have both love for God and love for people? What can happen when we have one without the other?
4. Why do you think Paul distinguished his Gospel proclamation (see 2, 8, 9) as not being the word of man? Explain why it is important to guard the content of the Gospel? See Galatians 1:6-9, 11, 12.
5. What did Paul see as proof that the Word of God was "at work" in the Thessalonian believers according to verse 14? Why would this particular evidence be meaningful to the Thessalonians? Describe other ways we might see God's Word at work in his people?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Is your understanding of the Gospel adequate enough to enable you to communicate it clearly to someone else? Why or why not? What are common factors that make us hesitant to share the Gospel with others?
2. As you look back at your life as a Christian, what evidence do you see of the Word of God being at work in you? How is it at work in you right now?
3. What personal relationships do you have in your life that might provide an opportunity to disciple another person?

Prayer: Ask God to empower us, as a church family, to faithfully and accurately proclaim the Gospel and guard its purity. Pray as well that we will be motivated by love for God and others as we share the Gospel and make disciples.