

## A changed leadership 01

### 1: Courage I Thessalonians 2 1-6.

If lives are to be transformed, then the **leadership must be transformed.**

Here is a picture of an effective leader.

- Every believer is in the ministry of the church.
- If a parent, you have a little flock at home! You might meet friends for a meal or hold a home Bible Study. Here is how to touch and change people, how to **shepherd** them.
- Paul's work among the Thessalonians was effective.
- In three ways: **courage**, 1-6; **a loving spirit**, 7-9; and **faithfulness**, 10-12. These are the marks of a transformed leadership.

**Courage** is the first essential for helping other people, especially when they do not want to be helped!

- He refers to **Philippi** in 2. Read Acts 16:16-40. Beaten with thick rods and thrown into prison. He and Silas sang praises to God.
- Even after an earthquake and the conversion of the jailer, he was ordered out of town by the authorities.
- Read Acts 19:21-41. **Ephesus**. Tried to face a howling mob. Restrained by friends from taking his own life! What **courage**!

Where did he get such courage? Phil 4:13 *I can do all things through him who gives me strength.* He was strong **only** through the grace of God in Jesus.

**Here Paul declared very clearly, what was behind his courage.**

#### 1. He did not preach out of deceit. 3

Today we have a parade of gurus, prophets, seers, and others peddling their own peculiar forms of doctrine. The Hare Krishnas, the Moonies, boldly proclaim their doctrines. They seem courageous and acting from conviction. Paul's message was the truth of God, confirmed by the prophets, and by the life and death of Jesus himself.

#### 2. He did not invite people to participate in impure practices. 3.

Some have attracted great followings by encouraging people to indulge themselves. To throw over moral restraint, to do what they wish. There are communes all over the world which in all sorts of orgies. People flock to them, attracted to that kind of degenerate teaching. Paul's teaching was **4 We speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.**

#### 3. Paul did not use guile. 3.

He did not use flattering words.5. Today, many teachers appeal to our ego. They disguise it by appearing to be simple teachers of the Word. But it is

mixed with a great deal of error. Sadly, many succumb to that kind of appeal.

Linked to that is, 5, *we did not put on a mask to cover up greed.* Many or the Televangelists should remember that! Paul did not promise prosperity in exchange for discipleship. Many preachers have a formula for wealth and success

- Paul even refused to accept financial support, and earned his own way as a tentmaker. He gave them what they needed, namely the gospel message. He supported himself until they had received it!

#### 4. He did not seek fame or status in the eyes of men. 6.

*Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others.* Paul was honest and faithful and ministered to them truthfully, regardless of whether he received any praise, glory, or thanks. None of these motives lay behind his preaching; not error, uncleanness, guile, flattery, greed, or ambition.

**What then did motivate Paul?**

#### 1. The honour of proclaiming the gospel.

Four times he mentions the **gospel**, 2,4,8,and 9. God had called him to deliver a message that people needed so desperately.

- Why do people suffer heartbreak, loneliness, misery, agony of spirit, in their lives? It is because they do not know the love of God in their lives. They do not know the warmth, strength, and encouragement which comes from Christ living in them. God gave that message to Paul, and now to us. What an honour that is! That is what continually motivated him.

#### 2. He was motivated by a desire to please God.

He was grateful for the **privilege** of proclaiming the message. and he was **energized** by the desire to please God.

- That is what drives us to please him, also.
- It was Jesus motive. Jn 8:29 *I always do those things which please Him.* He did it because he loved the Father.
- Love is the true wellspring of courage. If you need courage, do not try to summon it up from within yourself.
- Think of the love of God, about the honour of walking with him, and about speaking the truth to others. Soon you will find yourself driven-compelled, like Paul **1Cor 5:14 Christ's love compels us.** That is the secret of his **courageous** activity.