

## 1 Thessalonians ii.1-12

## First RPC Durham

**I. The apostle's testimony to the purity of their words (1-5).**

- A.** The apostle's assured comfort and testimony (v 1) — This is so:
  - 1) Because Christ is risen (1 Cor 15:58b)
  - 2) Because the Gospel was received (1 Thes 1:5a)
  - 3) Because the saints were bearing fruit and persevering.
- B.** Recalling past difficulties (v 2a; Acts 16:12, 22-24)
- C.** Resolve of present faithfulness (v 2b)
  - 1) The message does not change regardless of circumstances
  - 2) Their boldness was in God, as it must be with us as well
    - a) We have boldness in Christ before God (Heb 4:16)
    - b) Boldness before God leads to boldness before man (1 Sam 17:26, 37, 45-47).
    - c) Boldness is from God, and should not be confused with man's brashness (Jdg 15:7-8, ESV).
  - 3) *Use*, As the ministers of these early days, the Church is to be singular in its mind and mission (2 Tim 2:3-4, NKJV).
- D.** The character of their preaching described (v 3):
- E.** Rather, they solely sought to glorify God (vv 4-5; Heb 13:17; Jms 3:1, NKJV; 1 Pt 5:4)
- F.** Not seeking to flatter man (vv 4b-5a; 2 Sam 15:3-4)
- G.** Further Uses from the Text
  - 1) We are to beware those who go on seeking to flatter (Lk 6:26).
  - 2) We are to be ready to confront sin and be confronted with our sin.
  - 3) The sin of the fear of man is rebuked. (Prov 29:25)

**II. The apostle's testimony to the purity of their conduct (6-10).**

- A.** Not after the praise of man (v 6a; Gal 1:10)
- B.** Not after the money of man (vv 6b, 9)
  - 1) Foregoing their rights (v 6b; 1 Tim 5:18, NKJV)
  - 2) In order that there could be a greater focus on the ministry of the Gospel (v 9)
- C.** Love for the Church (vv 7-9, 11)

- 1) As demonstrated in their disposition to nurture (v 7).
- 2) As demonstrated in their instruction (v 11)
- 3) As demonstrated in their humility before the saints (v 9)
- 4) Love with the whole man (v 8; Mk 12:30, NKJV).
- D.** Diligent in their labours (v 9)
  - 1) The apostle's and ministers' labour was known to the saints (v 9a).
  - 2) Their work described (v 9a; Lk 6:6-12, Lk 10:2; Gen 3:17-18)
  - 3) The persistency of their work (v 9b).
- E.** Summary of their Conduct (v 10)
  - 1) The calling of witnesses (v 10a; Dt 19:15; 1 Jn 5:7-8).
  - 2) The vindication of their conduct (v 10b)
- F.** Further Uses from the Text
  - 1) In following this faithful example, all Christians should seek to be above reproach in all our dealings with others (Psa 26:11a).
  - 2) The sin of laziness is rebuked (Prov 20:4, ESV).
  - 3) Yet, we should also be quick to confess where we have fallen short and seek forgiveness (Psa 26:11)

**III. The purpose of the godly example of faithful ministers (11-12)**

- A.** The work of faithful elders (v 10):
- B.** The recipients of such ministry (v 10b)
- C.** The purpose, or goal, of the work of faithful elders (v 11a; Rom 6:11-12; 1 Cor 6:20).
- D.** The hope of all Christians (v 11b)
- E.** Further Uses from the Text
  - 1) We are shown the importance of faithful ministers in the purity (1 Kgs 12:31; 1 Cor 3:16; Rev 3:9), unity (Jdg 17-21), and peace (1 Sam 2:12-17, 4:1 *ff.*) of the Church.
  - 2) We are instructed in the importance of the testimony of faithful Christians before the brethren as well as in the world (Titus 2:10, ESV).
  - 3) We are to walk in the Lord, intentional in our calling.
  - 4) We are to walk in the Lord steadfastly with perseverance.
  - 5) We are to walk in the Lord, mindful of our hope.