

Edgemont Bible Church
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Thessalonians

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Intro: Leadership Dearth

II. Fail-Proof Spiritual Leadership, 5 qualities

A. Opening Reminder - vs 1

1. How Paul ministered did not come as 2nd hand info - For you yourselves know,
2. our coming to you that was not in vain – **kenos** - empty, (in) vain.

B. Confidence in God's Power - vs 2

1. we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi – Acts 16:16-24
 - a. suffered – **propascho** – they were treated brutally having been beaten and imprisoned in Philippi
 - b. spitefully treated – **hubrizo** – refers to public disgrace or legal abuse. They were unjustly judged and imprisoned though they had not broken the law.
2. even after, as you know,
3. we were bold in our God
 - a. **parthesiazomai** - to be frank in utterance, or confident in spirit and demeanor:--be (wax) bold, (preach, speak) boldly.
 - b. Paul's confidence was in God
4. to speak to you the gospel of God
 - a. Used 2 more times in this chapter – vs 8,9 as well as Mk 1:14; Ro 1:1; 15:16; 2 Co 11:2; 1 Pe 4:17
 - b. The Gospel from the perspective of God as the source of redemption
5. in much conflict
 - a. **agon** - a contest:--conflict, contention, fight.
 - b. from where we get agonize
 - c. regardless of the hardships that he was going through, he was going to preach the gospel

C. Commitment to God's Truth - vs 3

1. because of confidence in God's word,
 - a. its power – Ro 1:16; 1 Co 1:18; 2 Co 6:7; Heb 1:3
 - b. its truth – Jo 8:32; 17:17; 2 Co 6:7
 - c. the fact that it accomplishes what God intends – Isa 45:23; 46:9-11; 55:11
2. our exhortation did not come from – **paraklesis** – an urgent cry, appeal or call with an emphasis on judgement
 - a. no deviation from truth - 1 Tim 6:3-4,20; 2 Tim 1:13-14; 2:15
 - b. error – **plane** - fraudulence; a straying from orthodoxy or piety:--deceit, to deceive, delusion, error. No false teaching in his ministry.
 - c. or uncleanness – **akatharsia** - impurity (the quality), physically or morally:--uncleanness. No false living in his ministry.
 - d. nor was it in deceit – **dolos** - a trick (bait), wile:--craft, deceit, guile, subtlety. No false motives in his ministry.

D. Commissioning By God's Will - vs 4a

1. But as we have been approved by God
 - a. moves the topic from his commitment to his commission from God
 - b. root word - **dokimazo** - to test, to approve: examine, (ap-)prove, try.
 - i. **dedokimasmetha** – in the perfect tense means have been approved.

- ii. Paul had already been tested and found valid – Act 9:1-18
 - 2. to be entrusted with the gospel
 - a. Acts 9:15 – God told Ananias - "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.
 - b. Paul repeated the truth several times
 - i. 1 Co 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me
 - ii. Eph 3:8 - To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
 - iii. 1 Tim 1:11-12 - according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,
 - iv. Tit 1:3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;
 - c. **pisteuo** - to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), credit; to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ):--believe (r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.
 - d. the Gospel – 1 Co 15:3-4
- E. Motivation By God's Knowledge - vs 4b-5
 - 1. even so we speak,
 - a. not as pleasing men
 - i. **aresko** - to be agreeable (to seek to be so):--please.
 - ii. Paul made this clear in Gal 1:6-9
 - b. but God who tests our hearts
 - i. **dokimazo**
 - ii. Hearts
 - the inner person, thoughts, feelings, and motives
 - 2 Co 4:1-5
 - 2. For neither at any time did we use
 - a. flattering words
 - i. **kolakeia** - flattery: flattering.
 - ii. Paul wouldn't have used flattery because the OT says that God will cut off all flattering lips – Ps 12:3; Job 32:21-22; Pro 20:19; 28:23; Ro 16:18
 - iii. Flattery is a way of gaining favor or power over others
 - b. nor a cloak for covetousness
 - i. **prophasis**
 - an outward showing, pretext:--cloak, color, pretense,
 - what you see is what you get
 - ii. **Pleonexia**
 - avarice, fraudulency, extortion:--covetous(-ness) practices, greediness.
 - Paul was not trying to get something from them like false teachers
 - c. the witnesses
 - i. as you know,
 - ii. God is witness.
- F. Dedication to God's Glory - vs 6
 - 1. Nor did we seek glory from men,

a. **zetountes** - to seek, (by Hebraism) to worship (God), or (in a bad sense) to plot (against life):--be (go) about, desire, endeavor, enquire (for), require.

b. Present tense – didn't habitually seek glory, applause, recognition, or prestige either from you or from others,

2. when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

a. we might have – **dunamai** - to be able or possible:--be able, can (do, + - not), could, may, might, be possible, be of power.

i. **baros** - weight; a load, abundance, authority:--burden(-some), weight.

ii. Paul never abused his apostolic authority but balanced it with accountability and humility

b. apostle

i. normally one who has seen and been commissioned by Christ

ii. In this case probably applies to Paul, Timothy, and Silas