

## ***Surviving & Thriving in Gospel Ministry***

1 Thess.2:1-7

### The Foundations of the Faith, part 7

- Take a step back to overview this book:

Theme: The Foundations of our Faith:

- (1.) The **FRUIT** of our Expectant Faith
- (2.) The **FELLOWSHIP** of our Expectant Faith
- (3.) The **FERVOR** of our Expectant Faith
- (4.) The **FOCUS** of our Expectant Faith
- (5.) The **FUTURE** of our Expectant Faith

- In 1 Thess.2:1-7, Paul defends his ministry against slanderous charges of those who sought to destroy the work he had done.
- Paul lays out in this passage the realities of Gospel ministry: how did he accomplish it? Why did he continue in it? How did he survive it? How did he thrive through it? While we are not apostles, he gives three vital principles for real Gospel ministry that will help us to survive and thrive in our service for Jesus Christ.
- Paul makes a series of three negative denials with a positive counter point. We can look at it like a three round match as Paul defends his ministry against his accusers.
- Paul shows all of us how to survive and thrive in real Gospel ministry:

#### 1. The **Powerful Results** of Real Gospel Ministry, v.1,2

A. Negatively: His ministry was not **in vain**, v.1

B. Positively: His ministry was **Courageous**, v.2

#### 2. The **Pure Motives** of Real Gospel Ministry, v.3,4

A. Negatively: He was not motivated... v.3

1.) Through **Deceit**

2.) In **Uncleanness**

3.) By **Trickery**

B. Positively, His ministry was approved by God, v.4

3. The **Parental Compassion** of Real Gospel Ministry, v.5-7

A. Negatively: Paul's conduct..., v.5,6

- 1.) Never flattered **selfishly**.
- 2.) Never disguised **greed**.
- 3.) Never required **praise**.

B. Positively, v.7 "Gentle... as a nurse cherisheth her children."