

A Servant After God's Own Heart: Ministering the Love of Jesus

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

1. **Paul's Courage: boldness and endurance in trials** vs.1-2

2. **Paul's appeal: served with sincerity and transparency** vs.3-6

3. **Paul's love:** Paul speaks of the way they loved and cared for them with:

I) **The Love of a Mother** vs. 7-9

a) *Gentleness*(v.7): serves with mildness, unselfishness and kindness; NOT with power and dignity, nor for honor.

b) *Affectionate* (v.8): spares no effort, shrinks from no anxiety, wearies from no inconvenience; gentle, kind and loving. **2 Titus 2:24**

- In the same way, a servant of God loves with a heart of selflessness, total commitment, a demonstration of God's love for His church. (v. 8)
- This **must** be true of all God's servants. It is costly, demands our all.
- Beware of hypocrisy!

c) *Labors night and day* (v.9): spent themselves, sacrificed their lives freely, toiled to the point of exhaustion; not seen as burdensome.

- God's servants will do the same to see people saved. **John 4:35**

II) **The Love of a Father** vs.10-12

- God's servant must have a testimony confirmed by **integrity and godliness**.
- His witness must be **blameless/holy** and **righteous/just**.
- Paul's love is tender, caring, nurturing like a mother, but also admonishing like a father.

a) *Encouraging* (v.12): Exhort to do good works. **Heb. 3:13**

b) *Comforting* (v.12): Cheers and supports in difficulties and trials. **2 Cor. 1:14**

c) *Charges and spurs on* (v.12): Wants pilgrims to live lives worthy of God.

- Our salvation is founded upon God's gracious adoption.
- Will we answer God's call, showing ourselves to be faithful children, living as aliens in this world, in reverent fear to God?