

“THE MAN GOD CHOOSES”

I Thessalonians 2:1-12

MAIN IDEA: *The apostle Paul exhibited the marks of a successful servant.*

An Outline of I Thessalonians:

I. PAUL’S LOOK AT HIS COMING (1:1-2:16)

- A. *The Remembrance of His Converts (1:1-10): the picture of a model church*
- B. *The Review of His Ministry (2:1-16): the picture of a successful ministry*

I. THE 1st MARK OF A SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY: THE MANNER OF OUR COMMUNICATION AS A FAITHFUL STEWARD (2:1-6)

- A. *Communicating in Power (2:1-2)*
 - ❖ Paul appeals to their firsthand knowledge of his stay with them (cp. 1:9-10)--it had not been powerless (2:1).
 - ❖ They knew about Paul’s bold preaching (2:2).
- B. *Communicating in Purity (2:3-6)*
 - ❖ Purity of message (2:3a)
 - ❖ Purity of method (2:3b)
 - ❖ Purity of motive (2:4-6)

II. THE 2nd MARK OF A SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY: THE MEASURE OF OUR CARE AS A LOVING MOTHER (2:7-9)

- A. *The Example of the Care (2:7)*
 - ❖ *The Illustration:* a nursing mother giving loving care
 - ❖ *The Application:* providing this care to those whom we serve
 - ❖ *The Hindrances*
- B. *The Extent of the Care (2:8-9)*
 - ❖ They gave them the *gospel* (2:8a).
 - ❖ They gave their very *lives* (2:8b).
 - ❖ They *worked hard* (2:9).
- C. *The Explanation for the Care (2:8)*
 - ❖ A warm *affection*
 - ❖ A genuine *love*

III. THE 3rd MARK OF A SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY: THE MODEL OF OUR CONDUCT AS A CONCERNED FATHER (2:10-12)

- A. *Godly Example (2:10)*
 - ❖ *The witnesses*
 - ❖ *The walk*
- B. *Godly Exhortation (2:11-12)*
 - ❖ *The Manner of the Exhortation*
 - ❖ *The Goal of the Exhortation*

- Are you faithfully communicating God’s *message*?
- Are you serving others out of duty or with tender loving *care*?
- Are you serving others by appropriate *exhortation* supported by *godly example*?

