

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

The Model Ministry

What NOT to do: the Negative aspects

1Thessalonians 2:1-6

1 January 2024

Vs 3 “Our exhortation was not of deceit.” There are many deceivers in the world (2 Jn 7, Rom 16:18). God’s ministers must not use deceptions with God’s people or unsaved people.

- Speak the whole truth plainly. Don’t sugar-coat your message, don’t mislead, don’t conveniently leave out details that you think people won’t like.
- When you witness, don’t ignore or leave out the fact that all men are sinners and must repent. Christ died for our sins. A “sinner’s prayer” is no good if the person doesn’t know they’re a sinner.
- Don’t bring your preaching down to the level of the world so people will listen to you and support you.

“**Nor of uncleanness.**” The things of the Lord are perfect, sure, pure, and clean (Psalm 19:7-9, Proverbs 30:5, Psalm 12:6).

- If you’re going to preach God’s word, you need to live a clean, pure life.
- Dirty preachers have done a lot of damage to the cause of Christ. They’re the cause of many people rejecting the gospel and going to hell.
- The world has high standards for Christians. Make sure you don’t give them a reason to distrust Christians.

“**Nor in guile.**” Guile is when you say something (whether true or false) for the purpose of misleading a person.

- Luring people to church events by making them think it’s something else. (Gimmicks)
 - Christian magicians,
 - Bring your little ones to the church to visit Santa Claus.
 - Offering gifts or prizes to get people to come to church.
- Don’t be ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). Declare God’s word without shame.
 - We have the greatest thing in the world (Salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, the church), we don’t need to resort to trickery to get people the truth they need.

Vs 4 “Not as pleasing men, but God.”

- Don’t water down the gospel message to suit and satisfy the people. Stick to the truth.
 - People won’t like the truth, but don’t you move to please men. Aim to please God.
- **Galatians 1:10**, you can please men as long as you’re doing right. If they expect you to do something wrong to please them, then don’t do it. Continue serving Jesus Christ.
- **Acts 5:27-29**, “**We ought to obey God rather than men.**” Our priority is whatever God wants us to do.
- **Acts 4:18-21**, “**Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.**” If God wants us to preach, we’re going to preach even if you don’t like it.
 - Many preachers are controlled by certain members of the church who threaten to leave (with their money) if the preacher doesn’t preach what they want.
- **Exodus 32:22-24**, Aaron yielded to the will of the people and gave them what they wanted instead of standing on the truth of God.

Vs 5 “...neither at any time used we flattering words.” You can be nice, polite, and kind to people, but avoid using false compliments, especially if your aim is to gain something from them. If you want to say something nice, say it because you mean it. Stick to the truth.

“...nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness.” Don’t be a preacher who won’t preach unless he gets paid.

- God’s people ought to take care of the preacher (1 Cor. 9:14), but when the preacher gets covetous and worships money more than he worships God, he’s an idolator (Col. 3:5).

Vs 6 “Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others.”

- The ministry should not glorify the minister. It may humble him (1 Cor 4:10, Php 2:3).
- If you are in the ministry for recognition and respect from others, you are going to fail. You’ll quit when you don’t get the expected compliments.
- Minister for God’s honor, and God will bless that kind of ministry.