



**Series: Be Encouraged**  
**1 Thessalonians 2:9-16**  
**Week of October 21-17**

This whole series has been a reminder of the importance of Jesus and the Gospel. As Paul, Silas and Timothy continue to encourage the church at Thessalonica they continue to point believers to the truth of the Gospel.

Take time to read this whole section in group. There is something powerful about reading Scripture and reading it aloud.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-16

“For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!”

1 Thessalonians 2:9-16 ESV

Take time to pray and ask God to bless your time together as a group.

Read v. 9-10.

Ask, What are you most prone to boast about in life? (your accomplishments, your kids, your stuff, your spouse, etc.)

In these verses Paul is talking about his behavior and - he is however not boasting or bragging Notice that their emphasis was on the truth of their message and aligning their behavior to that truth.

How are you Righteous/blameless in Christ? – (Because of His sacrifice we are innocent of our past wrongdoing/sin.)

What are ways that you can be blameless in your conduct/actions/sayings? Is it even possible? What is required for us to be aligned with Christ on a continual basis?

Read v. 11-12

There is such a strong family emphasis in this writing. Notice the phrase dealing with “Like a father with his children encouraging and charging you to walk in a worthy manner and earlier he referred to a nursing mother caring for her child who is helpless on their own.”

How can we be like family here at Friendship? Do we see one another as family?

Explore the meaning of Exhort - to strongly encourage or urge you strongly (it is not forcing them to do something but showing them the benefit of walking in a manner worthy - urging them to walk worthy)

Read v. 13

You heard the words of the gospel from us to share with others - use your words - and Paul is thankful that they realize and share the Word of God -

The received word, it is at work in you. It convicts, transforms,

Read v. 14.

Imitators of those believers around them - Jewish believers now are suffering from other Jews who did not receive Christ as the messiah. - Paul points to those other believers who are suffering because of their faithfulness to the truth of the Gospel rather than the culture. How are you imitating biblical faithfulness?

Read v. 15-16

Paul talks about what most of the Jews did to the Messiah and tried to hinder them sharing the gospel with the gentiles.

Ask, Why would they not want to share something good with non-Jews?

What are some challenges that you have in sharing Christ with family? Co-workers?

It is easy to get distracted and not share. What are some distractions that can easily influence you to not share Christ with others?

What might Paul mean by this – “But wrath has come upon them at last!” - those who persecute the church - let’s look back at 1:10 - Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come

Possibly refers to this wrath to come -

Fall of Jerusalem

The expulsion of Jews from Rome by Claudius Acts 18:2

The famine of 46AD Acts

Many times, we endure “temporary” suffering for the eternal good. What might this mean in your experience?

How are you walking? In a manner worthy of the calling.

Is Christ being honored in your words and actions throughout the week?

How are we handling differences with others?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray.