

AMONG THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH  
I THESS. 2:1-7

Introduction:

- A. We have noted Paul's entrance in unto the Thessalonians.
  - 1. 1:9. [Paul is on the defensive]
  
- B. Paul feels it is necessary to defend himself against accusations that he was a fake and a fraud.
  - 1. The timeless accusation of being out for the money.
  - 2. Has never been laid to rest.
  
- C. What facts did Paul use to prove he was not, "in it for the money?"

I. HE SUFFERED FOR PREACHING, V2

- A. If a person isn't willing to suffer he is unworthy of his calling.
  - 1. Heb. 11.
  - 2. John Bunyan.
  
- B. Centention [ agon ] place of contest for public games.
  - 1. Acts 16:12.

II. HE SPOKE ONLY THE TRUTH OF GOD. V3,4

- A. Paul's preaching was not a fantasy.
  - 1. deceit = a wandering from the truth.
  - 2. unclean = impurity.
  - 3. guile = dolos = a bait for fish, a cunning trap.

III. HE DID NOT TRY TO PLEASE THEM. V4

- A. "not as pleasing men, but God."

IV. THEY COULD NOT ACCUSE HIM OF FLATTERY.

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A. Remember my speech. v5

1. flattering words = to hang on to; to smooth, or make false professions to hide selfish gain.

V. HE DID NOT DEMAND PRAISE. V6

A. "We never sought honor from men, you or anybody else."

B. "though we might have made demands as Apostles of Christ."

VI. HE WAS GENTLE AMONG THEM. V7

A. gentle = soothing, mild.

1. "instead, we were mild-mannered in your circle."

B. Nurse = to make thick, or fat by feeding.

1. "as a mother when she tenderly nurses her own children."