

**Now & Forever – Living For Christ’s Return**  
Authentic Gospel – The Message & The Messenger  
*1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*

**READ:** 1 Thessalonians 1-2:8 (*in your personal study*) Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 in your in your small group.

1. The church of Thessalonica was born out of adversity. Paul and his companions left Philippi after being harshly treated, beaten and imprisoned for proclaiming the gospel (Acts 16:19-40). Upon arriving in Thessalonica he immediately began to proclaim the good news with boldness by showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah. Consider the following questions.

- a) Did Paul retreat, soften his message or change his approach when he was faced with adversity (compare Acts 14:1 to 17:2-3)? If not, what did he do instead?
- b) Does opposition to the gospel imply that the gospel is ineffective (See: 2 Cor. 2:15-17; 2 Cor. 4:1-4)?
- c) What can we conclude based on Paul’s example of boldness in the midst of opposition? “When the gospel is boldly proclaimed there will be \_\_\_\_\_, but it will also produce \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. How would you define gospel boldness? What is the difference between being bold and being belligerent with the truth? As you consider Paul’s example in this passage, do you find that you have a lot in common with him or do you see specific areas you need to grow in? Please explain your answer by giving examples from your life.

3. If we truly love the gospel, we will be deeply concerned with sharing the gospel message accurately (v.3-4). In order to do this, we must be absolutely clear on what the gospel is. Read the following verses and write down the key elements of the gospel message and summarize the verses in the chart below.

	<b>KEY ELEMENTS</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF VERSE</b>
1 Corinthians 15:3-4		
John 3:16-17		
Romans 6:23		

4. When someone receives the gospel message their life begins to change. This change is not the gospel itself; it is the result or effect of the gospel at work in their life. If we hope to boldly, accurately and with authority proclaim the gospel, we must make a clear distinction between the gospel and its implications. In what ways might it hinder the clarity of the message by failing to make this distinction?

5. Paul was careful not to weaken or discredit the gospel by using deceitful techniques to manipulate his hearers into responding. What specific forms of manipulation does Paul mention in verses 5-6?

a) In what ways do we see these techniques being utilized in the professing church in North America?

b) Ultimately, does using deceitful techniques come from a desire to please God or people?

c) Do you think that this is helpful or harmful in promoting the integrity of the gospel?

6. How does Paul's example of gentleness in verses 7-8 strike you? Is it possible to be bold and gentle, as a nursing mother is with her children, at the same time?

a) Also consider carefully the words of 1 Peter 3:15, why is answer with gentleness and respect essential to magnify the gospel we proclaim?

b) What might this combination of boldness and gentleness look like as you share Christ with the lost in the upcoming weeks?

## **BREAKOUT**

1. Is the gospel truly glorious to you? When was the last time you were deeply moved by remembering that God (The Holy One) has been gracious to you (a sinner) at the extreme cost of giving His only Son? Take time to praise and worship God for the gospel.

2. Share with your group one way the Lord calling you to grow in light of this study. *(Have someone in the group record these and share them with the group via whatsapp, telegram, email, etc. But be sure to keep this confidential!)*

3. Share personal prayer requests in your group and pray for one another specifically and by name, with urgency and conviction, knowing that God hears and responds to the prayers of His people.