



## I. THE PROBLEM (I THESSALONIANS 2:2)

Paul is arriving at Thessalonica and his last stop before he got there was Philippi.

### A. IN PHILIPPI THERE WAS SUCCESS (ACTS 16:12-15)

Many people were being saved and disciples were being made and a church was planted from those disciples and God's work was moving forward. Lydia, a seller of purple, got saved. She allowed the new church to meet in her house. God was doing amazing things at Philippi.

### B. IN PHILIPPI THERE WAS A STRUGGLE (ACTS 16:16-39)

### C. IN PHILIPPI THERE CAME A SEPERATION (ACTS 16:40)

They were forced to leave Lydia and the new converts they had recently won to Christ as well as the church they had just established. They were not there long enough to do the work of discipleship that was needed for this new church plant.

## II. THE PATTERN (I THESSALONIANS 2:2)

### A. THE TALK OF PAUL & SILAS

#### 1. THE MANNER: BOLDLY (I THESSALONIANS 2:2)

The word "bold" simply means freedom of speech or confidence (in Christ).

#### 2. THE MESSAGE: THE GOSPEL OF GOD (I THESSALONIANS 2:2)

The term "gospel of God" means that God is both the originator and the object of the gospel.

#### 3. THE MESS: WITH MUCH CONTENTION (I THESSALONIANS 2:2)

### B. THE TEACHING OF PAUL & SILAS (I THESSALONIANS 2:3)

#### 1. Approach of Teaching: Exhortation

The word "exhortation" has two ideas: motivation and consolation. Paul wanted to motivate them to change but wanted to do it in an encouraging manner.

#### 2. Avoidance in Teaching: not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile

The word "deceit" is in reference to false religions that included immorality as a part of religious practice.

Titus 2:11-12, "<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"

### C. THE TRUSTESHIP OF PAUL AND SILAS (I THESSALONIANS 2:4)

If you are the trustee on someone's will or trust you have the power to do anything you want with their assets, but you are morally obligated to follow their requests.

Paul is saying that the gospel is a proclamation of which it is a privilege to be able to handle, but it is not up to us how we proclaim it or to decide when we proclaim it.

### D. THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF PAUL & SILAS (I THESSALONIANS 2:5)

Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

### E. THE TRIBUTE OF PAUL & SILAS (I THESSALONIANS 2:6-7)

The trap is pleasing man, but the test is pleasing God (I Thessalonians 2:4).

Hebrews 6:10, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

### F. THE TREATMENT GIVEN BY PAUL & SILAS (I THESSALONIANS 2:7 &11)

He treated them like a nursing mother and as a nourishing father. The mother tenderly cradles the child and the father gives him sustenance. Paul's bad experience in Philippi didn't affect his treatment towards those in Thessalonica.

## III. THE PRINCIPLES

### A. PROBLEMS ARE A REALITY

Job 5:7, "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

### B. PROBLEMS REQUIRE A RESPONSE

### C. PROBLEMS CAN CAUSE RUIN

Acts 5:41, "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

### D. PROBLEMS CAN BE REPEATED