



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Marks of a Godly Minister

Date: September 13, 2024

Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Notes:

We started our study of the book of 1 Thessalonians with a look at the portrait of the people in the church in [chapter 1](#). This week we look at vss. [1-12](#) of chapter 2 to see the portrait of the pastor of the church. The literal content of 1 Thessalonians 2 is a description of Paul's ministry, but the principle is applicable to all born-again believers. Let's look at what it takes to be effective in ministry.

I. Endure Mistreatment in Ministry ([1 Thess. 2:1-2](#))

The Apostle Paul reminds his readers of the mistreatment they endured in Phillipi (Acts 16:16-40). While there Paul and Silas were severely beaten with rods and thrown into prison. That night, instead of focusing on how they had been treated, or how 'this isn't fair', they focused on their ministry, and the Savior they served. They were up late praying and singing hymns. Suddenly there came an earthquake, the doors of the prison flew open, and their chains fell off. The jailor, assuming everyone had escaped, prepared to do himself harm, but Paul yelled for him to stop. Everyone was still in their cells. As a result of Paul's focus on ministry, the jailor and his entire household were saved.

- If you were in Paul and Silas' place, how would you have responded to your circumstances?
- What is the hardest thing about remaining humble in your Christian walk?
- How can you having a meek and humble attitude affect how people view God?
- Why is it such a temptation to bow up for your 'rights' when you feel you've been mistreated?
- How can surrendering our 'rights' to God help us have a similar perspective as Paul and Silas?

II. A Pure Message in Ministry ([1 Thess. 2:3](#))

Paul was passionate that the gospel message be true, accurate, and without error. It wasn't about him, but about Jesus. The message he was responsible for delivering (the gospel) was not something he had to come up with, but simply to deliver what he had received. It was a matter of stewardship, to fulfill the ministry he had been given by God.

- Why is it so important that our words and actions accurately represent the truth of God's word?
- How can you be a better steward of the ministry God has given you?



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

III. Pure Methods in Ministry (1 Thess. 2:3)

Paul also told it as it was. There was no deceit or manipulation in what he said. There are those who try to coerce, flatter, shame, or take whatever means necessary to fill the church. Approaches such as these have temporary results and weakens the body of Christ.

- How have you heard others use manipulation as they share the gospel?
- Why is being genuine so important when engaging others as a Christian?

IV. Pure Motive in Ministry (1 Thess. 2:4-6)

Our motives are *why we do what we do*. Motives for ministry are not: to please people, for personal gain, or for personal glory. A pure motive in ministry is to glorify God and for the spiritual maturity of others ([Col. 3:23-24](#), [1 Cor. 10:31](#)).

- What does it look like when someone wants to please people more than please God?
- What is something someone might gain when they are motivated by what they get instead of sharing about Jesus? What do they lose?
- What does the Bible say in [Matt. 6:1-6](#), [16-18](#) about the reward people get when they are motivated by personal glory? What do they miss?
- What are characteristics of the person motivated for God's glory?

V. The Manner in Ministry (1 Thess. 2:7-11)

Paul describes himself as a nursing mother ([vss. 7-9](#)) in his love, care, and concern for his readers. He invested his life into theirs for their benefit. He also describes himself in a fatherly fashion ([vss. 10-11](#)) how he sets an example for them, along with exhorting, encouraging and imploring them.

- How can an example of a loving mother be an encouragement for a fellow Christian?
- How can you be more like a mother?
- How can an example of a father help demonstrate what being a Christian is like?
- How can you be more of a father figure?

VI. The Mission of Ministry (1 Thess. 2:12)

Paul's goal in his ministry to the Thessalonian Christians is for them to "walk in a manner of the God who calls" them. He was an instrument in God's hands to help others reach their God-given potential.

- Describe that it looks like to walk in a manner worthy of God.
- How well have you been doing reaching your God-given potential?
- How can you be an enabler, or equipper to help others reach their God-given potential?