

FIRST THESSALONIANS

God's Message to a Church and culture like Ours Today

CHAPTER TWO NOTES:

Key Principles/Thoughts from verses 1-12:

- 1) For the sake of the credibility of the gospel, Paul defended himself from unfair and untrue attacks.
- 2) Paul lays out a “manual” for ministering:
 - a) Our **message** is God's good news (the gospel) v. 2
 - b) Our **motives** should not be impure (v. 3), to please people (v. 4), greed (v. 5), or seeking praise from people (v. 6) BUT to please God (v. 4)
 - c) Our **manner** should not be one of trickery (v. 3), flattery (v. 5) or a cover-up (v. 5) BUT of courage (v. 2), gentleness (v. 7), love (v. 8), toil (v. 9) and holiness (v. 10)
- 3) God tests our heart motives (v. 4)
- 4) Our love for others should express itself in sharing the gospel AND our lives (v. 8)
- 5) Fathers should deal with their children by:
 - a) Being encouraging, comforting, and urging to live lives worthy of God (v. 11-12)
 - b) From Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, don't exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”
 - c) From Colossians 3:21 “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged”

Key Principles/Thoughts from verses 13-20:

- 1) The word of God works in those that believe (v. 13)
- 2) We should have a strong desire to be together (v. 17-18)
- 3) Satan can stop **our** plans - but not God's plans! (v. 18)
- 4) People are what count for eternity; the people we have impacted spiritually will bring us eternal joy! (v. 19-20)