



1 Thessalonians 2

1 Thessalonians 2 – How the Church was nurtured, Labor of Love

I. Paul's Ministry to the Thessalonians v1-12

A. Not in Vain v1

B. A Labor of Love v2-6

i. How love responds v2

ii. How love exhorts v3

iii. What love understands v4-6

C. What affection produces in the life of a servant v7-12

i. Gentle and cherishing like a mother v7

ii. An ongoing desire to be present and share with one another v8

iii. Regardless of conditions v9

iv. Devout, just, and blameless service v10

v. Fatherly Encouragement, comfort, and instruction v11

vi. Others who walk worthy of God's calling in and on their life v12

II. Response to a Labor of Love v13-16a

III. The Lord's Labor of Love v16b-20

1 Thessalonians 2:1

Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians was one that was not done in vain at the churches birth there, and also Paul hoped to see the churches growth also not to be in vain. It's recorded three times in the same parable but in two separate places that Jesus uses this word for vain (*kenos*); and it's always used in the context of what was withheld from the Lord from His children, in the epistles the primary context is around the character of a Christian towards others through a relationship God desires the Christian to serve others.

Jesus – The context is when the Lord sent the prophets over the years, there was no **fruit** in the national life but instead they beat them and killed them.

Paul and company, their coming to Thessalonica was not void of the **fruit** of the Holy Spirit – Love.

1 Thessalonians 2:2-6

Instead of in vain and without the fruit of the Holy Spirit, Paul's conduct in Philippi as well as coming to those in Thessalonica was in the Fruit of God's Spirit which had been produced in Paul and those with him, and this Love was being produced in spite of what they had suffered and the conflict that followed them. The God's Agape Love in their lives had produced a boldness which encouraged through purity and humility of serving other and not themselves.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

This Agape love being worked out in their lives along with the afflictions which they were encountering produced in the life of Paul and those traveling with him gentleness instead of wrath, a desire to be in fellowship instead of clocking out, devout and blameless service instead of corrupting and extorting, encouraging and instructing instead of cracking wipses and guilting, and that this too should be an example for the Thessalonians of what should be put off and out of their lives and what should be put on; and that the lives of those persecuting them and the lives of Paul and company are examples of where each life style and value system leads to, the lifestyle and value system of the world or that of Christ. Paul summarizes what has been divided in our English Bibles as chapters with what our hope is in and what makes this new value system and new life worth living now, and that's our eternal life and the promise of Christ's return for His Church, and that we are to walk worthy of that calling.

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16a

Paul reminds the Thessalonians what their response to their labor of love had been and how they grew in Christ, that it was through receiving God's Word and through not shrinking back from enduring hardship because of Christ and how He had called them to a new life. Paul also encourages them that this is nothing new, that the Thessalonians were not being persecuted for anything other than the fact that they have accepted Jesus as their Savior and now are allowing Him to make different changes in their lives, and they did the same exact thing to the Church in Jerusalem from their own countrymen. Because of what they are called to as new in Christ, the same way which they were called and grew while they were with them and while Timothy was there is how they would continue to grow in light of and no matter what the degree of persecution, the very Church in Jerusalem is the proof in the pudding that how Christ first began a work in us is how He will complete it.

1 Thessalonians 2:16b-20

Paul highlights the Lord's labor of love for them, that even if Paul and those with him are no longer able to be there in body, the Lord knows what the Thessalonian's need and He is sure to complete it. There is one thing we can all count on and that is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives for the purpose of being in the presence of Jesus Christ, and not even Satan can stop that.