

Study Notes for 1 Thessalonians 2

Begin by reading through the entire chapter to get a sense of Paul's thoughts.

- Why do you think some may have considered Paul's time in Thessalonica to be a failure?
- How do you think you might respond if someone came to your town with a teaching about God and after just three weeks got run out of town? Do you think it would cause you to doubt or at least question the genuineness of his ministry?
- Read **Matthew 7:15** and **24: 11**. According to Jesus how concerned should we be about determining the genuineness of a ministry?
- Below are the 6 things Pastor Paul brought out from the chapter to help us recognize a true and genuine ministry. Read each along with the corresponding verses. Write down any other Bible passages that come to mind about each point.
 1. **(Verse 1)** Success is determined by good things happening to the people — not the leadership.
 2. **(Verse 2)** True leaders will show boldness in the face of suffering.
 3. **(Verses 3-4)** True leaders, who are sharing the simple and powerful truth of God's Word, don't mind people questioning their teaching and asking tough questions.
 4. **(Verses 5 & 9)** When it comes to finances, true leaders don't just preach about trusting God, they demonstrate it themselves and don't constantly talk about their financial needs.
 5. **(Verses 6-8)** True leaders are there to serve — not to be served.
 6. **(Verses 11-12)** The goal of a true and genuine ministry will always be to exhort, encourage and charge you to be Christ-like.
- What other Bible passages can you think of that speak to determining the genuineness of a ministry or leader?
- What does it mean "**to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory**"?
- Why do you think some new Christians believe that once we get saved we should no longer sin?
- Why is that unrealistic?
- In **verse 18** the Apostle spoke of wanting to travel to Thessalonica but being hindered by Satan. What are some of the things you can do when you discover that Satan is hindering your forward movement?
- How do you think the Apostle Paul dealt with matters of spiritual warfare?
- What else does the Bible say about battling the enemy?
- What one significant thing did you learn from this study?