

Series: The Coming of the Lord; *Sermon:* **An Exemplary Ministry**
delivered by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on March 7, 2021

Bible text explored: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹²we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. How (*verse 1*) did the Thessalonian believers know that Paul and Silas' ministry among them was not a failure? (See also *verse 10*.)
Why is so much of ministry that is eternal currently hidden from sight?
2. Whose approval (*verses 2-6*) gave the leaders' boldness in declaring the gospel entrusted to them?
Pick out some improper aspects of boldness they were careful to avoid.
3. What child-care image (*verses 7-8*) describes another side of ministry?
As we seek to communicate the gospel to others, have we found it a delight to share our lives with them?
4. In a culture that thought manual labor was for slaves to perform, how (*verses 9-10*) did Paul demonstrate that ministry is not a "nine- to-five job" but a lifestyle? (See also *Acts 18:3* and *2 Thessalonians 3:8-9*.)
Is "burn-out" caused by prolonged hard work or by stress?
5. In the Greek culture (*verses 11-12*), fathers were expected to provide moral instruction for their children. Is that a responsibility our fathers performed?
Although our own fathers may have disappointed us, how can we become "father figures" to others, as Paul was, by . . .
 - . . . exhorting (urging)?
 - . . . encouraging?
 - . . . charging (pleading)?

