**Laying Down Your Life for Others**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Thessalonians 2:6-10**

**Wednesday Evening**

**September 8, 2021**

**1 Thessalonians 2:6-10**

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

**6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.**

Saints, the Thessalonians also knew that Paul and his fellow apostles had not been preaching for money. Many false teachers traveled about the ancient world willingly saying whatever an audience would pay to hear. God himself was witness of Paul and Silas’s motives and mission.

They had not even desired praise from anyone. They didn’t need people to compliment their hard work and eloquent speeches in order to feel that they had accomplished much. They didn’t need anyone to praise them, for they sought approval from God alone.

**John 5:44**

"How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"

**Matthew 7:15-17**

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

**2 Peter 2:1-7**

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly...

**1 John 4:1**

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world"

**Webster Dictionary Describes a Prophet As:**

"A person who speaks for God or a deity, or by divine inspiration"

**Colossians 2:8**

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ"

**2 Timothy 4:1-5**

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

**7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.**

Saints, Paul and Silas were as gentle among the Thessalonian believers as a mother feeding and caring for her own children. Some traveling teachers may have breezed into various towns with superior airs and high-minded attitudes. But this was not the case with God’s apostles. They had come with the authority of the God of heaven, yet they had served among the people because they truly loved them.

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

**Colossians 3:12-17**

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.**

Saints, the Church in Thessalonica was a very Blessed and Humble people. They received the instruction of the Lord with Gladness!

**Psalm 100**

1 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures

to all generations.

Saints, Paul came to impart the spiritual gifts that God had imparted to him to bless this Church further!

**Romans 1:11-13**

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established-- 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

**9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.**

Saints, although Paul had the right to receive financial support from the people he taught, he supported himself as a tentmaker. Each Jewish boy would learn a trade and try to earn his living with it. As a tentmaker, Paul was able to go wherever God led him, carrying his livelihood with him.

Saints, Paul modeled self-reliance, the opposite of those false teachers and opportunists who sold “religion” in the marketplace. Paul didn’t want to burden the young congregation by requiring financial support.

The “double duty” of earning a living while trying to preach, teach, and build up a body of believers in Thessalonica called for them to toil night and day. But Paul and Silas gladly did it so that their expenses would not be a burden to the believers.

**2 Corinthians 11:9**

"And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself"

**2 Corinthians 12:14-16**

14 Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. 15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. 16 But be that as it may, I did not burden you...

**10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;**

Saints, again Paul appealed to what the Thessalonian believers knew about Paul and Silas. The believers themselves were witnesses of how these apostles had conducted themselves.

**John 15:26-27**

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Saints, Paul could not make these claims before the Thessalonians and before God if the claims were not true. The accusing Jews could say what they liked, but everyone knew that Paul and Silas had conducted themselves in a pure and honest and faultless manner. This consistent example of right living surely affected the Thessalonians no differently as mentioned in:

**Acts 5:29-32**

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Saints, if Paul and Silas had shared the gospel message but had lived carelessly, their message would have had little impact. But they preached through both their words and their lives.

**In Closing:**

Saints let our lives by the Grace of God be the examples to our brothers and sisters as well as to the unbelievers no differently.

Amen!

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**