STUDY PAK 3

I THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

"Paul did not please the populace." Gordon H. Clark, *First and Second Thessalonians*, p. 207.

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE, VERSES 1-12

A. Paul did not destroy his ministry with _____. The gospel had successfully entered Thessalonica because it was based upon a combination of pure doctrine and godly living.

B. Even though Paul and Silas had been bitterly persecuted in Philippi, Acts 16:12-40, they _____ in their presentation of the gospel in Berea and Thessalonica.

C. Their message was not designed to deceive people in any way. It was not based on any _____ it didn't seek to _____ people or _____ in any fashion. See 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Corinthians 4:2.

Lot's of ministries are based upon _____ and _____. Paul's doctrine was true, his story was honest.

D. Paul and his companions were not _____. They dealt in the truth, regardless of what people wanted to hear, Hebrews 13:6. "The issue is not just what men say, but _____." Mickey Carter. God tried their _____, not just their _____.

E. Paul did not use the proven and effective tactics of the con artist. He didn't use _____ or appeal to people's _____. He was content to be judged by God and was not evaluating his self-worth by how many men he could please. The con artist constantly wants you to think you are special to him that he is negative to others. However, when he is with them he is for them and against you. Paul did not manipulate people, he stood for truth. He was open and transparent not sneaky and tricky.

F. Paul's ministry was not about _____, it was not based upon popularity with men. He did not demand special treatment as an apostle.

G. Paul was _____ with people. Even though he had to be tough sometimes, he never wanted to hurt anyone. He reacted to people the way a nurse would react to the children they were taking care of, 1 Corinthians 10:33; Romans 15:2.

H. The phrase "_____" comes from _____ Greek word. It is most often used to describe the _____ _____. Paul not only invested the gospel in the Thessalonians but also the _____. The hardest part of the ministry is the emotional part. See Philippians 2:17; Romans 9:1-3. Paul took risks with his emotions.

I. Paul supported himself financially so that he could conduct the ministry in Thessalonica. What is today called "bi-vocational ministry" is sometimes the right way to go! Paul's _____ proved a blessing to his ministry, Acts 18:1-3.

J. Paul could be _____, he often was, 2 Corinthians 10. However, no one could refute Paul's basis for the ministry _____. He was open and transparent. He trusted _____ as his witness.

K. Paul treated the Thessalonians as a _____ does his children.

L. Paul had one goal, _____ _____. The more that Paul demonstrated love for believers the less they loved him,
2 Corinthians 12:15.

M. The word holy in verse 10 is not the normal New Testament word for holy. This word means _____.

II. ENDURING THE HINDRANCE OF SATAN, VERSES 13-20

A. Satan was responsible for the persecution of Paul and Silas. His persecution did not result _____.

"Satan was back of the riotous proceeding that drove Paul and Silvanus out of Thessalonica, and he was also back of the hindrance of the two plans to return to Thessalonica... So Satan succeeded in frustrating Paul's two plans to return to Thessalonica, but only because this accorded with _____ regarding the work Paul was to do. Satan has brought many a martyr to his death, and God permitted it. The death of these martyrs was more blessed _____ _____than their life would have been. It is even so with Satan's successes." R. H. Lenski, *Interpretation of Thessalonians*, p. 275.

B. The church at Thessalonica was blessed of God because of its _____. _____. They treated it as the Word of God. It accomplished its' purpose in their lives.

C. We hear much about copying the early church today. The church at Thessalonica did. As a result they had _____ to those that the early

church suffered.

D. The Jewish leaders had:

1. Killed the _____.

2. Killed _____.

3. They did not please God.

4. They had achieved almost universal disapproval.

5. They had forbidden the church to _____.
See Acts 5:40; Acts 17:5, 13.

E. The judgment of God came upon the Jews because of this. In A.D. 70 Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the religion of the Pharisees and Sadducees, Galatians 6:7.

F. Satan particularly worked to hinder Paul's ministry to Thessalonica, Ephesians 6:12. Who is trying to stop you?

G. The reward of the ministry is _____. Paul refers to the Thessalonicans as _____. This is the Greek word for the _____ crown (Stephanos - athletes) as contrasted with the type of crown for royalty (diademos). "Clearly implied is the joy of the soulwinner in seeing his fruit when Jesus returns." Dave Sorenson, *Understanding the Bible*, volume 10, p. 520.

H. Jesus presented himself as an example of the Jewish violence against the prophets, Luke 11:47-52, 13:31-33, 20:9-16; Acts 7:52.

I. The Lord judges those who prevent the gospel from being preached.