

INVEST

1 Thessalonians 2.1-9

Part of the abiding value of 1 Thessalonians 2 and 3 is the insight it gives us into Paul's heart for people and how he invested himself fully for Kingdom business. In these chapters, more perhaps than anywhere else in his letters, he discloses his mind, expresses his emotions and bares his soul. No one who is engaged in any form of ministry can fail to be touched and challenged by what Paul writes here. Paul gives us a life checkup for the things that last. We're going to let the Bible be our guide and walk through these verses together, see what they have to say to us and notice the Apostle Paul's example.

*"You know brothers that our visit to you was not a **failure**. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition."* 1 Thessalonians 2.1-2

WE NEED TO EXAMINE OUR MOTIVES.

Paul gives us an amazing list of what does and doesn't last when it comes to those motivations of our life in the first several verses of 1 Thessalonians 2.

"We have previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi as you know but with the help of our God we dared to tell you His gospel in spite of strong opposition. For the appeal we made does not spring from error or impure motives nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We're not trying to please men, but God who tests our hearts. You know we never use flattery, nor do we put on a mask to cover up greed. God is our witness. We are not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else." 1 Thessalonians 2.1-6a

- 1. Error doesn't last.**
- 2. Impure motives will not last.**
- 3. Manipulation will not ultimately work.**
- 4. Flattery does not last.**
- 5. Masks do not last.**
- 6. Seeking praise from men does not last.**

Paul also tells us that there are several things that do stand the test of time. What are the things that I can have in my heart, the motivations, the attitudes, the things that I put into my life to really last?

- 1. Courage lasts.**
- 2. The good news lasts – the gospel.**
- 3. Pleasing God lasts.**

WE NEED TO LOOK AT OUR ACTIONS.

"As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you." 1 Thessalonians 2.6b-9

So, where does this leave us?

- 1. We need to care for people.**
- 2. We need to love people.**
- 3. We need to work hard for people.**