

Final Session
Presidential Address

1 Thessalonians Ch 2 verse 1-12

Quotes:

1. " Paul had evidently been accused of a number of shortcomings: he had tricked the converts with his flatteries and the like, he was interested in their money rather than their spiritual progress, he had no love for them. In rebutting such accusations, Paul brings out for evangelists and pastors for all time important lessons about the kind of lives they should live." - Introduction to the New Testament - Carson, Moo etc.

2. " 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 pastoral ministry (ordained or lay) can fail to be touched and challenged by what Paul writes here" - John Stott.

3. " A passage that ought to be written out in large letters and hanging on the wall in every Christian ministers house- or perhaps better, engraved in letters of gold on his of her heart." - Tom Wright

Paul as a Missionary

1. Message v 2,8,9,13 " the Gospel of God"

a) Don't tamper with it. Pluralism

b) The Church is suffering from a " loss of nerve" - John Allan

c) What is "the Gospel"?

- 1 v 9,10

- 2 v 12

- 3 v 2

2. Motive v4 - Compare with Philippi (Acts 16 v 23, Paul was " severely flogged " ; he was treated "outrageously" TNIV)

3. Manner (of life) v 8,9 - Paul put himself out (Compare with the example of Dai Lewis)

- He behaved like a mother v7

- He behaved like a father v11

4. Means (his tactics) v2

" We had boldness in our God " = we dared to tell

- over 50% of people in a recent survey could not name the Gospels!
- called to be conservative in theology, but **radical** in ways of getting the Gospel across.

Conclusion

- We have a huge mission challenge
- In this passage we see the heart of what it means to be an Evangelical
- Next months / years will be " messy" (Archbishop of Canterbury)
- We need to be co-belligerents with others
- Above all, we need courage and faithfulness to God's Word and God's Gospel

But in any controversy we need to keep the Gospel heart and priorities we see in Paul,

* Faithfulness }

* Daring }