

# 1 Thessalonians Series

## Lesson #027

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Dean Bible Ministries  
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**Priorities for Pastors:**

**Approved by God**

**1 Thessalonians 2:4**

**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**THESSALONIANS**

**THEREFORE, COMFORT ONE  
ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS**

**1 Thess. 2:1, “For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.**

**1 Thess. 2:2, “But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.”**

**1. First, in 2:1 Paul asserts that they themselves know that their coming, which implies their teaching and exhortation, i.e., 2:3, was not without meaning, purpose, or result. It had borne the fruit of their salvation and spiritual growth.**

**1 Thess. 2:1, “For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.**

**κενός *kenos***

**nom fem sing**

**empty, foolish, worthless; the opposite is to be full. It can imply something without content or without result or impact.**

**1 Thess. 2:2, “But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.”**

- **You yourselves know, 1 Thess. 2:1**
- **As you know, 2:2**
- **As you know, 2:5**
- **God is witness, 2:5**
- **We did not seek glory from men or from you or others, 2:6**
- **We were gentle among you, 2:7**
- **For you remember, 2:9**
- **You are witnesses, 2:10**
- **As you know, 2:11**

**1 Cor. 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”**

**1 Cor. 15:14, “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”**

**1 Cor. 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”**



**1 Thess. 2:1, “For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.”**

**1 Thess. 3:5, “For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.”**

**1 Thess. 2:2, “But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.”**

**2. Second, Paul reminds them that they had endured tremendous rejection, hostility, and suffering as they proclaimed their message, which they would not have done if they had wrong motives.**



**1 Thess. 2:2, “But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.”**

**παρρησιάζομαι**  
*parrēsiázomai*

**aor mid indic 1 plur**

**“to speak with  
confidence, boldness,  
and courage”**

**3. Paul was an example of how to face life's challenges with spiritual courage and boldness. It comes from having the Word of God in your soul. 1 Thess. 2:2**

a. Paul's focus was on the gospel and his Christian testimony. It wasn't about self-promotion.

2 Cor. 10:17, "But 'he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.'

2 Cor. 10:18, "For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends."

**δόκιμος *dokimos* Adjective**

**nom masc sing**

**approved; excellent, pure**

**b. Paul did not take advantage of the miraculous release by leaving, but to be an example of grace toward the jailer.**



**c. By application we may find ourselves being mistreated, legally, personally, or defamed. If it impacts our witness, if the law or company policy is violated, then we need to act wisely. It isn't about getting even but about justice. So we need to figure out ways to approach the issue.**

**d. As a result Paul had the opportunity to lead the Philippian jailer to the Lord.  
Acts 16:29–40**

**4. Past failure did not minimize their boldness and courage.**

**1 Thess. 2:2b, “... we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.”**

**1 Thess. 2:2, “But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.”**

**ἀγών *agōn* dat  
masc sing  
fight; contest**

**1 Thess. 2:3, “For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.”**

**“For our appeal was  
*not* from deception,  
*nor* from an impure motive,  
*nor* made with deceit,  
*but* as we have been examined by God  
to be entrusted with the gospel,  
so we speak,  
*not* as those who please people  
*but* those who please God, the one who  
examines our hearts.”**

**1 Thess. 2:3, “For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.”**

**παράκλησις**

*paraklēsis,*

**encouragement,**

**exhortation,**

**challenge, confront**

**1 Thess. 2:3, “For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.”**

**παράκλησις**  
*paraklēsis,*  
**encouragement,**  
**exhortation,**  
**challenge, confront**

**πλάνη *planē***  
**gen fem sing**  
**error**



**2 Tim. 1:12, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”**

**2 Cor. 4:2, “But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.**

**2 Cor. 4:3, “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,**

**2 Cor. 4:4, “whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**

**2 Cor. 4:5, “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.”**

**2 Cor. 12:16, “But be that as it may, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning!”**

**2 Cor. 12:17, “Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?”**

**2 Cor. 12:18, “I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?”**

**Eph. 4:14, “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,” [craftiness of erroneous method]**

**1 Thess. 2:4, “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”**

**δόκιμος *dokimos***

**Adjective**

**nom masc sing**

**approved; excellent,  
pure**

**δοκιμάζω**

***dokimazō* perf pass**

**indic 1 plur to**

**prove, approve,  
test**

**δοκιμάζω**

***dokimazō* pres act**

**ptcp relative**

**clause: to prove,  
approve, test**

## **Noun**

**1 Cor. 11:19, “For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.”**

**2 Tim. 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

**James 1:12, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”**

## **Verb**

**Rom. 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

**1 Cor. 3:13, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”**



**1 Thess. 2:4, “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”**

## **Self-Examination**

**2 Cor. 13:5, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”**

**Gal. 6:4, “But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.”**

**1 Thess. 5:21, “Test all things; hold fast what is good.”**

**1 Cor. 11:28, “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”**

**1 Cor. 4:1, “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

**1 Cor. 4:2, “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”**

**Eph. 4:11, “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,**

**Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”**