

With The Master In View of His Return
Lesson 4 - Paul's Exemplary Model of What Not To Do in Ministry - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

1. (a) Read 1 Thessalonians 2 and note all of the ways in which Paul ministered. (b) Are these the ways you minister to others? (c) How do you think we can improve as we minister to people?

2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 2:4

3. Paul mentions in 1 Thessalonians 2:2 that he was treated shamefully at Philippi. Read Acts 16:16-40, which is the account of this treatment. (a) What were some of the ways Paul was treated? (b) Why do you think he mentions this to the church at Thessalonica? (c) In what ways have you or others been shamefully treated for the cause of Christ? (d) What should be our attitude when this happens?

4. Paul also mentions in 1 Thessalonians 2:2 that, although he had been persecuted, he remained bold in speaking the gospel. (a) What does Philippians 1:14 say happened because of Paul's boldness? (b) What happened in Acts 4:13 and 4:31 because of Peter and John's boldness? (c) What has happened in the lives of others because of your boldness with the gospel? (d) Using the following verses, how would you counsel others who lack boldness in sharing their faith? Mark 8:38; Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:8-12; 1 Peter 4:16.

5. Paul mentions in 1 Thessalonians 2:4 that God tests our hearts. (a) In the following passages whose heart was being tested and why? Exodus 16:1-7; Judges 2:20-23; John 6:4-6. (b) What might be some other reasons God would test our hearts?

6. In your life of service to God, what have you learned that you could pass on to others as far as what *to do* and *not to do* in ministry?

7. How can we pray for you as you serve the Lord? Put your answer in the form of a prayer request.