### 1 Thessalonians

## Chapter 2

1Brothers, you know that our visit with you hasn’t been without results. 2For although we’d just suffered and been mistreated in Philippi (as you well know), our God gave us the boldness to speak to you about the good news of our God (although with a lot of difficulty) 3because the encouragement we give doesn’t come from errors, uncleanness, or deceit.  
  
4And since God has inspected us [and found us] fit to be entrusted with the good news, we don’t speak just to please men, but [to please] God, who inspects what’s in our hearts.  
  
5So, with God as Witness (and as you well know), we didn’t come to you with flattering words or pretending to be in need of anything, 6nor have we sought glory from men… No, neither from you, nor from anyone else (although as Apostles of the Anointed One, we could have been [justified in being] such a burden).  
  
7Instead, we came to you as gently as a mother who feeds and cares for her children!  
  
8And because we cared for you so much, we were not only happy to share the good news of God with you, but also our lives, since you’ve become so dear to us.  
  
9Brothers, surely you remember how we toiled and labored… How we worked hard night and day so we wouldn’t put an expensive burden on anyone, as we preached the good news about The God to you.  
  
10And both you and God are our witnesses as to how loyal, righteous, and free from blame we became to you believers.  
  
11For each of you must recognize how we kept on encouraging you, consoling you, and testifying to you, just as a father does to his own children!  
  
12[We did this] so you’d keep on walking in a way that’s worthy of The God who’s calling you to His Kingdom and glory.  
  
13And we keep on thanking God, because, when you accepted the word of The God that you heard from us, you didn’t accept it as the word of men, but just as it truthfully is… The word of God – which is at work in you believers!  
  
14Yes, you became our imitators and our brothers – in the same way as those who were called by The God in Judea and are in the Anointed Jesus, because you started suffering at the hands of your own countrymen, just as the [Called Ones] did at the hands of the Judeans 15who killed the Lord Jesus and the Prophets, and who persecuted us.  
  
These men aren’t pleasing to God, for they’re [really] opposing all humanity 16by trying to keep us from speaking to the gentiles so that we can save them.  
  
As a result, they’re always filled to the brim with their sins, and they’ll receive His full wrath.  
  
  
17As for us, brothers:  
  
We’re forced to be separated from you for a short while… In body, but not in our hearts, and we anxiously desire to see your faces.  
  
18That’s why I wanted to come to you (yes me, Paul) on two different occasions. However, the Opposer kept on cutting us off.  
  
19When our Lord Jesus arrives and we’re standing before him, why would we have any hope, or joy, or a winner’s garland to boast over, if not for you?  
  
20Because you… Yes, you are our glory and joy!