

Sermon: Growing in Grace Through Serving.
Series: Growing In Grace.

Scripture: 1 Thess. 2:1-12;17-20.
Date: January 29, 2023

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) In the past (or present) what has made you reluctant to serve in the church? What has made it hard? Have you had any bad ministry experiences?
- b) Paul talks about sharing the gospel with boldness (v.2). Are you able to share the gospel? Are you bold about sharing? How does God's grace give you boldness?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Read 2:4. Paul says that God has approved him and entrusted him with the gospel. Why do you think he is able to say this with such confidence? Can you claim these same two things with the same confidence? Why or why not?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Read 2:7-12. Paul compares himself to a gentle nursing mother, and an encouraging, exhorting father. How do all these character traits point to Christ and his character, his service in our lives?

APPLICATION

- a) Read 2:9-12. Service requires living a life worthy of God and encouraging those you serve to do the same. Does your conduct flow from your identity in Christ and your calling into his kingdom? Or, more simply put, does your talk match your walk? Are you encouraging others to live holy and blameless lives? In what ways?

- b) Read 2:17-20. Paul speaks of his desire to be face to face with the Thessalonian believers. He calls them his hope, joy, crown, and glory. Do you feel this way about the believers you serve? Can you see yourself presenting other Christians to Jesus as crowns on Judgment Day?

FIGHTER VERSES: Psalm 119:33-36.

PRAYER

- Thank God for approving you and entrusting you with the gospel.
- Confess ways that you have resisted serving face to face.
- Thank Jesus for his gentle and encouraging ministry to your life.
- Ask God to help you boldly build relationships where life and the gospel can be shared.