

Thursday

The Gospel Is Worth It

Today's Scripture 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Have you ever given much thought to what the apostles went through in order to preach the gospel? In this chapter we see clearly how they suffered and were mistreated (v. 2). They did not do what they did in order to receive glory from men (v. 6). They even worked secular jobs in order to not be a burden on the church (vv. 9-10). They did it because they loved people and wanted to bring this saving message into their lives (vv. 11-12). Their ultimate goal was to get people to “walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory” (v. 12).

Their sacrifices were worth it. The people in Thessalonica accepted the message preached as the word of God, not some man-made doctrine (v. 13). As a result of their becoming Christians, Paul could proudly say that “you are our glory and joy” (v. 20).

This chapter brings to mind some important truths.

First, to those first century preachers, the “good news” of Jesus Christ was worth any cost or sacrifice. When we think about our own list of priorities, where is the gospel listed? Is it even listed at all? Jesus said that we needed to “seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). Are we doing that?

Second, despite the horrible things they endured, seeing others obey the gospel brought them unspeakable joy and satisfaction. Sometimes (many times?) we are not willing to go through the slightest inconvenience or embarrassment to share the gospel with someone else. Yet being instrumental in someone else's conversion to Christ is one of this life's greatest achievements. That person we led to Christ becomes our “glory and joy” as well.

Today, I will...remind myself how important the gospel of Jesus is to me and my life.