

The Works Of A Messenger Of God

Text: **1 Thessalonians 2**

Introduction:

1. A messenger is one who delivers *messages*, letters or a *bearer of news*.
2. In the second chapter of First Thessalonians the Apostle Paul is this messenger.
 - a. He is the one who is delivering a *message*.
 - b. He is the one who is a *bearer of the good news* (the gospel)
3. In order for a *message* to have lasting affects, the *message* must come from a good and true source; in this case it is from God (His Word).
4. The reception of a message is most assuredly shown by the works of the *messenger* in delivering the *message*.
5. This morning we are going to look at some of the affects, of the *message*, as shown by Paul the *messenger*.

I. By Reception Of The Gospel From The *Messenger* (v1-6)

- A. Not in vain (v1)
 1. But, in the power of the *message*.
 - a. In the changing of lives
 - b. By the fruits of the good news.
 2. Not in hopelessness but in HOPE
 3. Not in futility but in ASSURANCE
- B. Not in error, impure or by deceit (v3)
 1. But, by preaching and teaching the truth.
 2. But, by preaching and teaching the pure Word of God
 - a. Which is able to save one's soul – *"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."* – **James 1:21**
 - b. Which is able to make one wise
- C. Not by great flattering speeches nor with greed (v5)
 1. Not to be seen of men and make them feel good in where they are at (still in their sins)
 2. Not for lucre (or money to make one rich)
 3. But, with the Word of God that changes people's lives.
- D. Not to the glory of men, but to the glory of God (v6)
 1. Not to be seen of men.
 - a. *"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven."* – **Matthew 6:1**
 2. But, to give God all the glory – for it is His *message*.
 - a. *"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* – **1 Corinthians 10:31**

II. By Proof Of The *Messenger's* Sincerity (v7-12)

- A. By being gentle (compassionate) (v7)
- B. Having a fond affection or love for the lost (v8) – *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* – **1 John 4:10**
- C. By their labor for the Lord (v 9)
- D. Proof is in the witnesses (v10) – *"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—"* – **1 John 1:1**

- E. By exhorting, encouraging and imploring the Christians (v11)
- F. By wanting them to walk in a manner worthy of God (v12)
 - 1. In His kingdom
 - 2. In His Glory

III. By The Acceptance Of The *Messenger's Message* (v13-20)

- A. Not as words of men.
- B. But, as the Word of God (v13) – *“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”* – **Hebrews 4:12**
- C. By being imitators of the churches of God in Christ (v14) – *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”* – **Ephesians 5:1-2**
- D. By suffering for His sake (v14)
- E. That Christ at His coming is the hope and joy. (v19)

Conclusion:

1. The Apostle Paul is shown as one of Christ's great *messengers* in delivering the life saving gospel message.
 - a. By the reception, of the *message*, as shown by the church at Thessalonica.
 - b. By the proof of his sincerity in the delivering of the *message* and the compassion that he had for each and every individual – the same compassion that God has for all of us today – *“...not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”* – **2 Peter 3:9**
 - c. By the acceptance of the gospel *message* as shown by the fruits of the Christians in Thessalonica.
2. Today, we also can be the *messenger* that God wants us to be by:
 - a. Putting our total trust in God and His *message*
 - b. Having the conviction that drove those in the first century church, even though under extreme persecution.
 - c. Having the compassion for the lost as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did, when He went to the cross doing the will of the Father in heaven in order that we could be set free from the bondage of sin.
 - d. Yes, we can have a zeal for delivering the life saving *message* to a dying world because of the knowledge that God has given us through His Word. *“Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.”* – **John 6:68**