

First Thessalonians 2:1-8  
The Shepherd's Integrity—part 1  
Paul's Reminiscences—1:2-2:16  
Personal Comments—1:1-3:13

- 1) Paul reminds the believers of God's previous work—2:1-2 <sup>1</sup> *For you<sup>pl</sup> yourselves know* ①, *brothers*,
  - a) Negatively: *that our coming to you<sup>pl</sup> has not been without result.* (cf. 1:9-10)
  - b) Positively: <sup>2</sup> *But ... we had the courage in our God to speak to you<sup>pl</sup> the gospel of (from) God amid much conflict.* (cf. Acts 17:1-9)
    - i) *after we had previously suffered (physically) and were mistreated (legally) in Philippi, as you<sup>pl</sup> know* ②, (cf. Acts 16:19-40)
  - c) The injuries and insults from Philippi did not silence them in Thessalonica.
  
- 2) Paul contrasts his teaching ministry among them—2:3-4 <sup>3</sup> *For ...*
  - a) Negatively: *our exhortation was ...*
    - i) True—*not out of error*
    - ii) Pure—*or uncleanness*
    - iii) Authentic—*or in deceit.*
  - b) Positively: <sup>4</sup> *But ... this is how we speak,*
    - i) Godward approval: *as we have been approved [dokimazo] by God to be entrusted with the gospel,* (cf. Ephesians 3:8; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:11-12; Titus 1:3)
    - ii) Godward pleasure:
      - (1) *not as pleasing people*
      - (2) *but (pleasing) God, who examines [dokimazo] our hearts.*
        - (a) cf. Psalm 7:9; 17:3; Jeremiah 11:20; 12:3; 17:9; Acts 1:24; 15:8; Romans 8:27; Revelation 2:23)
  
- 3) Paul contrasts his manner of serving God among them—2:5-8
  - a) Negatively: <sup>5</sup> *For we never came ...*
    - i) Self-interest—*in a word of flattery [kolakeia], as you<sup>pl</sup> know* ③,
    - ii) Self-advantage—*nor in a pretense of greed—God is witness—*
    - iii) Self-honoring—<sup>6</sup> *nor did we seek glory from people, either from you<sup>pl</sup> or from others,*
      - (1) *although we could have imposed our weight as apostles of Christ.*
  - b) Positively:
    - i) Warm gentleness—<sup>7</sup> *But we were gentle among you<sup>pl</sup>,*
      - (1) *like a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.* (cf. Ephesians 5:29)
    - ii) Loving generosity—*being pleased ...*
      - (1) When? <sup>8</sup> *We longed for you<sup>pl</sup> in this way,*
      - (2) What? *to share with you<sup>pl</sup> ...*
        - (a) *not only the gospel of God*
        - (b) *but also our own lives,*
      - (3) Why? *because you<sup>pl</sup> had become beloved to us.*