

1:2-10 - PAUL COMMENDS THEM FOR THEIR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE
BUT IN 2:1-8 - PAUL DEFENDS HIS MINISTRY THROUGH A SERIES OF CONTRASTS...

WHY? - 1Co 10:12
ALL ARE VULNERABLE!

YOU KNOW
 Paul calls on their first-hand knowledge of his activities in bringing the Gospel to them!

CONTRAST #1 (1-2)

NOT
BUT

COMPARE TO GAL 1 & 2
 where Paul defends his ministry against the message of Judaizing teachers

CONTRAST #2 (3-4)

NOT
BUT

PAUL'S MOTIVES
 In all these contrasts, Paul is emphatically declaring the purity and sincerity of his motives!

CONTRAST #3 (5-8)

NOT
BUT

PAUL'S INVESTMENT
 Paul was so invested in the people of Thessalonica that he became close friends with them

3:5 - I sent to learn about your faith, *for fear* that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain

(1 Thessalonians 1:5)
 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. **You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.**

(1 Thessalonians 2:1-7)
 1 **For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.**
 ΚΕΝΌΣ- kenos: devoid of content or empty
 2 **But** though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at **Philippi**, as you know, we had boldness in our **God** to declare to you the **gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.** <- Acts 17:5-9
 II Peter 2:18-19

3 **For** our appeal **does not** spring from error or **impurity** or any attempt to deceive, <-
 i.e. from covetousness or seeking approval from man
 4 **but** just as we have been approved by **God** to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, **not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.** <- 1Sam 16:7

Paul calls on God as his witness (of his heart)
 5 **For** we never came with words of flattery, as you know, **nor** with a pretext for greed— **God is witness.** 6 **Nor** did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we **could have made demands as apostles of Christ.**

7 **But** we were **gentle among you**, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the **gospel of God** but also **our own selves**, because you had become very dear to us. <- 1Pe 2:2 "pure spiritual milk"

Who is Paul defending himself against?
 2:14-16; 3:1-13; Acts 17:5-9
 These contrasts likely address accusations faced from his opponents in Thessalonica
DOUBT?
 With constant accusations from the opponents, these Christians might begin to doubt Paul's sincerity.

Acts 16:22-24
 Why would someone endure intense suffering for an empty message?
 They faced the same potential danger in Thessalonica as in Philippi, yet continued to preach boldly

DECEIT
 *2Co 2:17; 4:1-6; 12:16

How could they know Paul had been approved by God? (1:5)
 How can WE recognize teaching that has been approved by God?
 *II Timothy 4:1-5

PAUL'S PROJECT
 Paul would not personally carry the Corinthian gift to Jerusalem to prevent any appearance of impropriety (1Co 16:1-4)

PAUL'S RIGHT
 Paul forgoes his right as an apostle of Christ to prevent being a burden to these Christians (2:9) AND to demonstrate his genuine concern for their souls
 1 Thess 2:9;
 2 Thess 3:6-15;
 Gal 6:6; 1Co 9

Blanks

**Not Empty
But With Boldness**

**Not Deceitful
But to Please God**

**Not for Greed or Glory
But with Godly Concern**

All Are Vulnerable

1 Thessalonians 1:2–10 (ESV)

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father **your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.** ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, **I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.**

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

¹² Therefore let anyone **who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**

Paul's Opponents

1 Thessalonians 2:14–16 (ESV)

¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For **you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,** ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶ by **hindering us from speaking to**

the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 (ESV)

¹Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³that **no one be moved by these afflictions**. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that **we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass**, and just as you know. ⁵For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. ⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Acts 17:5-9 (ESV)

⁵But the **Jews were jealous**, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, **they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason**, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." ⁸And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

"Vain" - Greek NASB Number: 2756

Greek Word: κενός | Transliterated Word: kenos | Root: a prim. word;

Definition: empty:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used | empty (2) | empty-handed (4) | foolish (1) | futile things (1) | vain (10).

—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

Suffering at Philippi

Acts 16:22-24 (ESV)

²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Deceit

2 Peter 2:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

2 Corinthians 2:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit.

Approved by God

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (ESV)

¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in

season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

God Knows the Heart

1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks on the heart.**”

Paul’s Project

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³And when I arrive, **I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.** ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

Paul’s Right

1 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV)

⁹ For you remember, brothers, **our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,** while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 (ESV)

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For **you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us,** because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴If anyone does not obey what we say in

this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Nursing Mother

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV)

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

1 Thessalonians 2:1–4 (ESV)

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.