W_____ (9-10)

Paul's Right & Labor

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**

1Th 2:6; 2Th 3:6-15; Acts 20:33-35; Gal 6:6; 1Co 9; 2Co 11:7-11

W_____ (11-12)

Live Out Your Faith

With **genuine motives** and **pure conduct**, Paul **exhorted** these "believers" to **live** in a **manner worthy** of the **kingdom of God**

-Matt 7:21

W_____ (13)

What it Really Is

This speaks to **God's work through Paul in His Holy Spirit (1:5)**

We **MUST** make sure we are presenting what is ***truly*** **the word & will of God**!

W_____ (14)

Suffered Persecution

Their suffering was evidence they were *truly* living out their faith.

-Matt 5:10-12; 2Ti 3:10-13

W_____ (15-16)

Dealing with Injustice

How do we **deal** with all the **suffering & injustices** we face in this world?

We don't have to! God will settle the injustices in this life in eternity

-Matt 25:31-46; Rom 12:19

Builds on 2:6 -> *"we could have made demands as apostles of Christ"*
& 2:8 -> *"ready to share...our own selves"*

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**.

10 **You are witnesses**, and **God also**, how ***holy*** and ***righteous*** and ***blameless*** was our conduct toward you believers.

Holy: Pious Conduct
Righteous: Moral Conduct
Blameless: Genuine or Sincere (2:1-8)

<- Building his case...

11 **For** **you know** how, *like a father with his* **<- Mother (2:7) & Father (2:11)** *children*, **<- 1Co 4:15; 1Tim 1:2; 2Tim 1:2; Phlm 10**

Proclaimed: Teaching
Exhorted: Teaching & Urging
Encouraged: Lifted Up
Charged: An Earnest Appeal

12 we ***exhorted*** each one of you and ***encouraged*** you and ***charged*** you to **walk** **in a manner worthy of God**, who **calls you** into his own kingdom and glory. **5:24; 2Th 2:14**

<- How they responded to the exhortation

13 **And** we also ***thank God constantly*** for this, that when you ***received the word*** of God, which you *heard from us*, you ***accepted it*** not as the word of men but as what it really is, **the word of God**, which is **at work** in you believers.

<- Evidence they had truly "received"

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*, **<- 1:6; 2:14-16; 3:1-13; Acts 17:5-9**

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**!

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.""

You Remember (9)
You are Witness (10)
You Know (11)
...and God Also (10)

Paul ***again*** calls on their first-hand knowledge of his activities and God's witness of heart **1:5; 2:1-2, 4-5,**

Expansion on 1:5
***"You know* what kind of men we *proved to be among you* for your sake"**

Eph 4:1 *"I…urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called"*

Revisiting 1:2-3 & 5-10
"We give thanks to God always for all of you"
"you became imitators of us and of the Lord"
"you received the word"

Became Imitators

They **followed in the footsteps** of those who **received the gospel before them in Judea**

How did **Paul know** about the **persecution in Judea?**

Acts 8:1-3

Drove Us Out

Damascus & Jerusalem
Acts 9:23-30
Antioch of Pisidia
Acts 13:44-52
Iconium & Lystra
Acts 14:2-6, 19
Thessalonica
Acts 17:5-9
Corinth
Acts 18:6-17

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Blanks

Work
Walk
Word
Wrangle
Wrath

For…

1 Thessalonians 2:6 (ESV)
6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (ESV)
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.

Paul's Right & Labor

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. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor 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. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. 14 If 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. 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Acts 18:1-4 (ESV)
1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they

were tentmakers by trade. [4] And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 20:33-35 (ESV)
[33] I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. [34] You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. [35] In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

1 Corinthians 9:3-18 (ESV)
[3] This is my defense to those who would examine me. [4] Do we not have the right to eat and drink? [5] Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? [6] Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? [7] Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? [8] Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? [9] For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? [10] Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. [11] If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? [12] If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. [13] Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? [14] In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. [15] But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. [16] For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! [17] For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. [18] What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

2 Corinthians 11:7-11 (ESV)
[7] Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? [8] I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. [9] And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. [10] As the truth of

Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. [11] And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

Revisiting Chapter 1

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.

Father, Mother, Children

1 Thessalonians 2:7 (ESV)

[7] But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV)

[5] Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

1 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

[2] To Timothy, my true child in the faith:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

[2] To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philemon 10 (ESV)

[10] I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.

Live Out Your Faith

Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)
[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

Matthew 7:21 (ESV)
[21] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Calls You

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (ESV)
[24] He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (ESV)
[14] To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Suffered

Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV)
[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[11] "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Timothy 3:10–13 (ESV)
[10] You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Acts 8:1–3 (ESV)
[1] And Saul approved of his execution.
And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. [3] But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

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)
1 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at
Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel
of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that no one be moved by these
afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 For 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. 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.
6 But 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— 7 for this reason, brothers, in all our distress
and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. 8 For now we
live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanksgiving can we return to God
for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, 10 as we pray most
earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking
in your faith?
11 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,
12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for
all, as we do for you, 13 so 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)
5 But 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. 6 And 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, 7 and Jason has received them,
and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another
king, Jesus." 8 And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they
heard these things. 9 And when they had taken money as security from Jason and
the rest, they let them go.

Injustice

Matthew 25:31–46 (ESV)

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he
will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he
will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the
goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then
the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was
hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you
visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer
him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you
drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe
you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will
answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my
brothers, you did it to me.’
41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave
me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did
not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did
not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to
you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to
one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into
eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Romans 12:19 (ESV)

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written,
“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

“Drove Us Out”

Acts 9:23-30 (ESV)

23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became
known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but
his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall,
lowering him in a basket. 26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to
join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he
was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and
declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how
at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out
among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke

and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. [30] And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 13:44-52 (ESV)
[44] The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. [45] But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. [46] And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. [47] For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' " [48] And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. [49] And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. [50] But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. [51] But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. [52] And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 14:1-7 (ESV)
[1] Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. [2] But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. [3] So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. [4] But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. [5] When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, [6] they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, [7] and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Acts 14:19 (ESV)
[19] But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

Acts 17:5-9 (ESV)
[5] But 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. [6] And 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, [7] and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another

king, Jesus." [8] And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. [9] And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

Acts 18:5-17 (ESV)
[5] When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. [6] And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." [7] And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. [8] Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. [9] And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, [10] for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." [11] And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. [12] But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, [13] saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." [14] But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. [15] But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." [16] And he drove them from the tribunal. [17] And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Romans 12:14-21 (ESV)
[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. [17] Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [18] If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." [20] To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (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. 10 You are
witnesses, and God also, how holy
and righteous and blameless was our
conduct toward you believers. 11 For
you know how, like a father with his
children, 12 we exhorted each one of
you and encouraged you and charged
you to walk in a manner worthy of
God, who calls you into his own
kingdom and glory.

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.