

D3: Ministry– The example of Paul 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Wellspring Purpose and disciplines:

6 Gospel-Centered Truths for Ministry

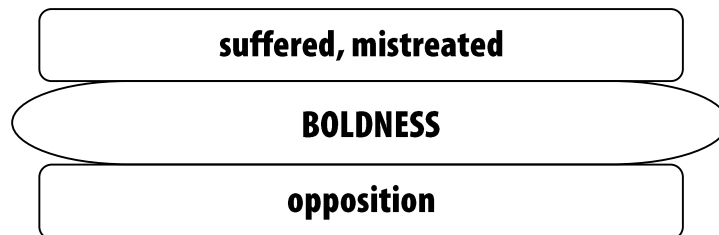
I. Ministry must be concerned first and most with engaging people with the _____, 2:1-2.

1. Gospel ministry is never _____ or found _____, 2:1.

Q: What will happen to your ministry if the gospel is not central in your relationships?

2. Gospel ministry requires _____ when surrounded by opposition, 2:2.

Sandwich #1:



Q: How much trouble exists in your relationships because of the gospel?

Q: What might be some reasons for the absence of trouble in our relationships?

Q: What happens when opposition comes in your gospel ministry to someone?

3. Gospel ministry finds its _____ in God alone, 2:2.

Q: What needs to happen daily to increase your God-given boldness to speak the gospel?

II. In gospel-centered ministry, God Himself is central, 2:2b-6

1. God is the origin of our _____ and _____, 2:2b, 6.

2. God _____ our exhortations. 2:3

3. God _____ us to _____ us with His gospel, 2:4

Sandwich #2:



4. God _____ my mouth, 2:4

5. God is my primary _____, 2:4, 5, 10

6. God _____ my mask in ministry, 2:5.

7. God _____ my use of authority, 2:6.

*Any authority I might possess in ministry is not about me.
Authority in ministry is always to be exercised under the 'approval', 'pleasure', and 'witness' of God.
Our first resort in ministry must not be the exertion of our authority for authority's sake.*

III. A gospel-centered ministry is characterized by a _____ gentleness, 2:7.

Q: How well do you step into others' lives to build them up? Are there any new believers in your life who you can nurture?

IV. A gospel-centered ministry will be satisfied with nothing less than deep _____ for people, 2:8.

Sandwich #3:



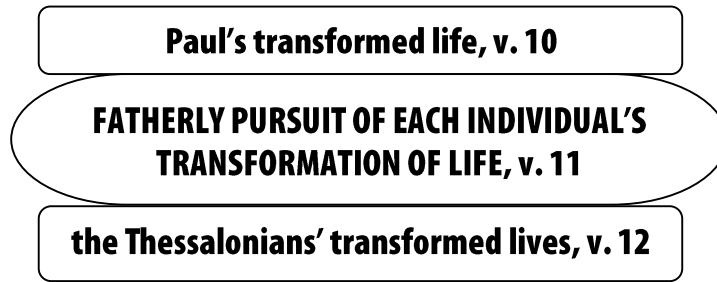
Q: How is our effectiveness with the gospel impacted by the level (or absence) of affection for others? Are there any relationships in which your love must be rekindled? How do you rekindle your affection for someone?

V. A gospel-centered ministry keeps the _____ to the gospel _____, 2:9.

Q: Can you recall how an older, wiser believer personally made sacrifices so you could keep growing in the gospel? For whom will you seek to do the same?

VI. A gospel-centered ministry's primary goal is _____ of life that is worthy of God, 2:10-12.

Sandwich #4:



Ephesians 4:29

CONCLUSION: The bigger picture of a Gospel-centered ministry:

The inseparable, unbeatable combination in a gospel-centric ministry, (1:5-2:12):

1. _____!
 - 1:5 'gospel. . . word only. . .'
 - 1:6 'received the word. . .'
 - 1:8 'for the word of the Lord. . .'
 - 2:2 'speak the gospel. . .'
 - 2:4 'entrusted with the gospel, so we speak. . .'
 - 2:5 'never came with flattering speech. . .'
 - 2:8 'impart not only the gospel'
 - 2:9 'we proclaimed the gospel of God'

2. _____!
 - 1:5 'you know' and 'proved to be among you. . .'
 - 1:9 'what kind of reception we had with you. . .'
 - 2:1 'our coming to you (entrance). . .'
 - 2:2 'as you know. . .'
 - 2:5 'as you know. . .'
 - 2:7 'gentle among you. . .'
 - 2:8 'impart to you our own lives. . .'
 - 2:9 'you recall, brethren, . . .'
 - 2:10 'you are witnesses' and 'behaved toward you'
 - 2:11 'as you know' and 'each one of you'

Q: How would you rate your own life on this combination? Where are you strong? Where are you weak? Why have you become weak there? What must happen to become stronger in that area?

**The ultimate _____ in ministry—
 believers walking in a manner worthy of the God who calls us into His own kingdom and glory, 2:12**