1Thess 25

In spite of opposition Bible Doctrine must be presented.

Open back up today in 1Thess chapter 2.

1Thes 2:1 For you yourselves know, brothers *and sisters,* that our reception among you was not in vain,

It was not empty or useless, because there was a core group of Bels who actually went forward and evangelized to their Greek brethren.

[1Th 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/2/s_1113002) but after we had already suffered and been treated abusively in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

We noted the injustice and beating that Silas and the Apostle Paul had at Philippi.

What we look at today will be the first missionary journey into Thessalonica when the Apostle Paul was able to spend a few weeks evangelizing and this group of Greek Bels became saved.

That was also a time of an attack, satanic forces worked against Paul on that first journey as well.

/[1Th 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/3/s_1113003) For **our exhortation** does not *come* from **error**or **impurity** or by way of **deceit**;\

[1Th 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/4/s_1113004) but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but *to please* God, who examines our hearts.

We have to get to a place where are main concern is what the word of God says not what mankind’s opinion is.

We can go over to Acts chapter 17 RF.

While you go to Acts 17 let me tear apart 1Thess 2:3 in relation to what Apostle Paul is teaching.

The Apostle Paul is saying when you bring the gospel and you teach BD it has to be accurately handled and accurately presented.

/ **Exhortation-** *paraklēsis,* to comfort with truth, to communicate accurately which brings encouragement or assistance.

**Error-** *planē,* guiding someone astray, to lead in a wrong direction (counterfeit).\

PARA-CLAY-SIS, comes from a root word where we get our definition of God the HS – the comforter, the one who guides or walks alongside.

PLAN-A, was a Greek term for fraud. It points to a counterfeit or something that is deceptive.

**/Impurity-** *akatharsia,* unclean, foul or dirty in the moral, physical or spiritual sense of filth.

**Deceit**- *dolos,* wickedness and trickery to deceive and or steal without being noticed. Guile or cunning. \

ARK-AT-TAR-SEE-A, the root word in the Greek points to something that is decayed or foul.

DOLL-US, was a term used for the tavern owners who would water down their wine to make extra money.

It would be used today for the local, used car dealer who smiles and shakes your hand while he sells you a lemon, which will break down once the warranty expires!

You cannot present the gospel or any BD at all without making sure you are handling the word accurately first.

/2Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God **as a worker** who does not need to be ashamed,  **accurately handling the word of truth**.\

Now as we read through Acts 17 keep in mind the ancient tradition was to present yourself to the local synagogue or religious leaders if you planned on preaching in a village or a city.

This is why you often would see the Apostles present themselves to the religious crowd or make their first speech in a synagogue.

Act 17:1 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

These were Roman strongholds which were in Greek territory.

There was a supply chain road running from Phillipi and Thessalonica and it went past these Greek two towns.

[Act 17:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/17/2/s_1035002) And according to Paul’s custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

/[Act 17:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/17/3/s_1035003) **explaining** (*dianoigō*) and **giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead**, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”

To open up fully and examine and giving evidence.\

DEE-ANOY-GO, was a term used to open up like a surgeon does, open and examine something – fully understand or explain something.

Again, we see the accuracy of the word being handled in proper fashion.

[Act 17:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/17/4/s_1035004) And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a significant number of the leading women.

These Greeks became the original Bels and early church in Thessalonica.

/Act 17:5 But **the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the marketplace**, formed **a mob** and set the city in an uproar; and they **attacked the house of Jason** and were seeking to bring them out to the people.

Mob mentality was whipped up by the religious crowd and they attacked the house of a Greek Bel named Jason.\

Jason actually means one who heals or one who brings healing.

This was a citizen of Thessalonica, a good man. He had been converted to Christianity and he was bold enough to allow the travelling ministry of Paul into his house.

Courage goes beyond words, at times our faith and true courage which comes from Christ, put us in very uncomfortable positions because we live in the devil’s world, a hostile environment.

We have a spiritual battle all around us as we learned from the recent series I just completed.

Act 17:6 When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also;

Just think about what kind of boldness it takes to invite the Apostle Paul & his crew into your home when you just became born again and saved and you know how controversial the Apostles were.

/[Act 17:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/17/7/s_1035007) and **Jason has welcomed them**, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, **saying that there is another king, Jesus**.”

Jason and a few good men were courageous enough to stand against the authority because they had to follow GOD rather than man.\

This is why I remind Bels all the time they will never know how or when to make a stand without becoming spiritually mature.

Jason and these men were not attempting to act rebellious or allow their emotions to run wild, they simply knew the right thing to do… and they did it!

[Act 17:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/17/8/s_1035008) They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. 9And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

This group of new Bels handled this situation magnificently!

They followed GOD rather than man and when they had to face legal repercussions, they agreed to not do that again, so as to protect their families. Yet, look what they did when they were released.

/Act 17:10 **The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night** to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

They no sooner were released from custody and they immediately made sure to help and protect the Apostle Paul and his men.\

The church at Berea was a great example of serious students of the word, a great study for another day.

/Adversity is inevitable but stress or frustration becomes a choice. Living in truth and presenting the gospel is an assault against the kingdom of darkness. Therefore opposition, attacks and stumbling blocks will be part of the growing Bels temporal walk. Those who need an unobstructed path in Christianity are either foolish and uneducated in the word or cowards.\

Go over to 2Corinthians chapter six.

Either you’re a man or mouse! I learned that at the South Dakota Conference. Inside joke for those in the know.

When it comes to adversity, stumbling blocks and distractions there are those that can be removed and should be. While others you simply have to stand against or even stand in and tolerate for a period of time.

 REPEAT

/Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters,* **keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances** contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For **such people are slaves**, not of our Lord Christ **but of their own appetites**; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.\

There are situations and people in our lives that we can separate from or even minimize contact with, because they are a distraction or stumbling block for us.

But the Bel needs to handle each situation with caution and allow God the HS and the word to guide you, not your emotions. Every circumstance is different and needs fresh eyes and a new approach.

 REPEAT

The church at Corinth was a group of Bels with many emotional issues and distractions.

They had a certain level of prestige or wealth and yet they were not very generous or were they kind hearted.

The distractions of the details of life and their emotions often brought them into troubled waters.

2Cor 6:1 And working together *with Him,* we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—

[2Co 6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/2/s_1084002) for He says, “AT A
FAVORABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU,
AND ON A DAY OF SALVATON I HELPED YOU.” Behold, now is “A FAVORABLE TIME,” behold, now is “A DAY OF SALVATION”—

[2Co 6:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/3/s_1084003) giving no reason for *taking* offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,

Paul’s main concern was the accuracy of the word and the ministry.

/[2Co 6:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/4/s_1084004) but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in **afflictions, in hardships, in difficulties**,

All Bels need endurance which is inner strength from BD and the new nature.\

Because afflictions, hardships and difficulties which will pop up from time to time as you keeping moving forward in your Christian journey.

The Apostle Paul goes on because at his level of teaching and ministry he was under full demonic assault on a regular basis.

/[2Co 6:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/5/s_1084005) in **beatings**, in **imprisonments**, in **mob attacks**, in labors, in **sleeplessness**, in **hunger,**

The Apostle Paul was not exaggerating or seeking sympathy, he was stating facts about his walk as an Apostle.\

Sometimes in certain circumstances as a leader or teacher, you have to plainly put out truth and facts related to your own life - that some people may disagree with or even find offensive.

The fact is a positive Bel will not seek the path of least resistance at every turn.

If that were the case the Apostles would have never been successful in establishing the early church and finishing the completed canon of scripture.

/[2Co 6:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/6/s_1084006) in purity, **in knowledge**, in patience, in kindness, **in the Holy Spirit**, in genuine love, 7in **the word of truth**, *and* in **the power of God**; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

The Apostle Paul points out the two power options needed to walk in the temporal world.\

[2Co 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/8/s_1084008) by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;

The Apostle Paul had been accused of everything – being a false apostle, a dictator a charlatan.

A demon and even a god.

[2Co 6:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/9/s_1084009) as unknown and *yet* well known, as dying and *yet* behold, we are alive; as punished and *yet* not put to death,

All Christians will be viewed by the world and by GOD by two different standards.

[2Co 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/10/s_1084010) as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

Always rejoicing is in a Greek present tense, the Bel is called to keep on walking in faith, courage, happiness and hope.

/Christians face different forms of adversity and come from all walks of life. Therefore, there will always be a narrative from the world that portrays them as the weak, the poor or the wealthy. The ignorant or the evil, yet GOD sees them in the righteousness of Christ and as HIS eternal children. Life can sometimes be a storm and then turn into a calm walk before the next storm.\

Do not get distracted by how the world views you, nor should you get distracted when the storm of challenges or adversity land on your doorstep.

With all tribulations and challenges Paul faced, he reminds the church at Corinth we all face the ups and downs of life. All Bels will face the adversity of the cosmic system.

[2Co 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/11/s_1084011) Our mouth has spoken freely to you, you Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

The Apostle Paul is telling them I always taught accurate BD and truth was always my goal.

/[2Co 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/12/s_1084012) You are not restrained by us, but **you are restrained in your own affections**.

*Stenochōreō-* restrained, put in a tight spot or cornered to bring or put into distress.\

STEN-AH-WHO-RAYO, means to be sewn into a crippling position, cramped. Pushed into a corner. It points to a stressful situation.

Notice, they did it themselves through emotions.

*Splagchnon* (SPLAG-HAN), means the affections or emotions deep within, the place where lust patterns dwell.

It is a tender compartment within the soul structure that can easily get out of control. It is related to our feminine instincts of nurturing, compassion and personal love.

 REPEAT

It has no ability to be in control because it lacks thought. It is a region of the soul design for responding.

Yet the majority of Bels in Corinth often lived in emotional waves from this portion of their soul structure.

[2Co 6:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/13/s_1084013) Now in the same way in exchange—I am speaking as to children—open wide *your hearts to us,* you as well.

There is a hint of divine sarcasm in this statement. They were immature Bels who should have grown up by this point.

/[2Co 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/14/s_1084014) **Do not be mismatched with unbelievers**; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness?

The Bels at Corinth kept allowing influence and intimacy with Unbels confuse and manipulate them.\

[2Co 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/6/15/s_1084015) Or what harmony does Christ have with Belial, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever?

This was a Hebrew title for evil or in some cases a name for Satan himself. It was used about a half dozen times in OT scripture to point to people who followed the BAAL system.

/Bels who do not keep a keen awareness of how Unbels can negatively touch their life can become entrapped in demonic influence. We are always open and ready to show the love of Christ and share the gospel. Yet fellowship (intimacy) with the cosmic system is very similar to leaving the hotel door unlocked while travelling abroad.\

We often have Unbels in our periphery and circle of family and friends, especially early in our Christian walk.

Many Bels are actually pulled away from BD due to their Unbel family & friends if they are not careful.

/1Jhn 5:12 **The one who has the Son has the life**; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Those who refuse to believe upon Christ have nothing to offer you within intimate friendships. What can happen over time is cosmic influence.\

When the Bible tells us to be equally yoked within our intimate relationships it means Bels with Bels, there is strength in numbers. It isn’t about maturity its about being a BELIEVER.

None of us grow at the same rate.

There may come a time in your Christian walk where you put distance between you and Unbels within your circle.

/Phl 3:20 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

1Jhn 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him**.\

We have to become aware of our daily surroundings and those who can influence us.

/1Jhn 4:3 and **every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God**; this **is the *spirit* of the antichrist**, which you have heard is coming, and now it is already in the world.

Jhn 17:14 “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because **they are not of the world**, just as **I am not of the world**. \

The Bel who can maintain communication and contact with Unbels while still growing in the plan of GOD is a mature Bel. They are able to evangelize and reach SM without cosmic distractions.

Most Bels will find this a difficult path to walk and should be very careful.

Let me close with the words of TLJC;

/Jhn 15:19 “If you were of the world, the world would love *you as* its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.\