

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 – How the Gospel was brought
July 20, 2025

I. How the Gospel was presented (1-6)

A. Review of persecution at Philippi (1-2)

B. Exhortation was... (vs. 3-6)

1. Not of deceit (Rom 1:27; Eph. 4:14; 2 Pet. 3:17-18; 1 John 4:6)

A wandering out of the right way. In an active sense, deceit, fraud, seduction to error and sin, a teacher who seeks to seduce, deception, fraud. Of conduct meaning perverseness, wickedness, sin. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NKJV) *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

2. Not of uncleanness (2 Cor. 12:20-21; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5)

Uncleanness or filth in a natural or physical sense; moral uncleanness, lewdness, any unnatural pollution, whether acted out by oneself, or with another. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

Ephesians 5:3 (NKJV) *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;*

3. Not of guile (Mark 14:1; Acts 13:10; 1 Pet. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 3:10)

Bait, metaphorically and generally fraud, guile, deceit, to *decoy*; a *trick*, craft, deceit, guile, subtility.

Mark 14:1 (NKJV) *After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death.*

4. Pleasing God not man (Rom. 8:8; 15:2-3; Gal. 1:10; 2 Tim. 2:4)

To make one inclined to, to be content with, soften one's heart towards another, to strive to please; to accommodate oneself to the opinions, desires, interests of others.

Romans 8:8 (NKJV) *So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

5. No flattery involved (5)

- They did not soft sell it like seeker sensitive movement of today

6. No cloak of covetousness (Matt. 23:14; John 15:22; Acts 27:30; Lk 12:15; Eph. 4:17-19; 2 Pet. 2:3, 2:13-14)

- No prosperity preachers allowed
- Cloak—An outward show or appearance, a pretense or pretext put forth in order to cover one's real intent. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

Acts 27:30 (NKJV) *And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow,*

- Covetousness—greediness, love of money to hoard away, avarice. It is said to be the root from which these sins grow. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.
Luke 12:15 (NKJV) *And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

7. Not to make a reputation (Matt. 4:8-9; John 5:41-44; Acts 12:23; 1 Cor. 10:31-33)

- Glory (reputation)—Giving glory to God is ascribing to Him His full recognition. Spoken of honor due or rendered, i.e., praise, applause. Basically, in the Bible it refers to the recognition, honor or renown belonging to a person. Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.
Acts 12:23 (NKJV) *Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.*
1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (NKJV) *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*

8. Not a burden to them (Matt. 20:11-12; Acts 15:28-29; Gal. 6:2-3; Rev. 2:24-25)

Burden—some, weight in reference to its pressure, burden, load; importance, to make demands, make one's weight felt..

Galatians 6:2-3 (NKJV) *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

II. The attitude of the presentation of the Gospel (vs. 7-8)

A. Gentle—Placid, gentle, mild, easy, compliant. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NKJV) *But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,*

B. Persistent (like a nurse)

- Cherishes—To make warm, heat. In the NT, used figuratively meaning to cherish, nourish, take care of.

Ephesians 5:29 (NKJV) *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

C. Personal—not just the Gospel but themselves (2 Cor. 6:11-13; 12:14-15; Phil. 2:17)

- This allowed the Thessalonians to see the genuineness of the Gospel and its power
- I think we may have forgotten that for the Gospel to be effectively delivered it must be first effectively lived brought by a person of integrity who had the favor of God and man

2 Corinthians 12:14-15 (NKJV) *Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. ¹⁵ And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.*

III. Challenge—presenting the gospel through our testimony

- What is your testimony of how the Gospel has impacted your life?
- Are you sharing (or willing to share) your testimony with others?
- How has your testimony of coming to Jesus and committing your life to Him changed how you live your life?