

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13—the conduct of the apostles in spreading the Gospel

I. The conduct of the Apostles in spreading the Gospel

A. They labored physically (Luke 18:5; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10; Rev. 2:2; 2 Cor. 11:27; 2 Thess. 3:8)

1) They labored and travailed in physical work night and day

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV) *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

2 Thessalonians 3:7-8 (NKJV) *For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,*

2) They did not expect paid to deliver the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:7-11, 9:18; 2 Cor. 2:17, 11:7-9)

1 Corinthians 9:18 (NKJV) *What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.*

B. They labored by lifestyle

1) Holy devout lifestyle

in a manner pleasing to God. Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the NT.

2) Just lifestyle (Luke 23:40-41; 1 Cor. 15:33-34; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:23)

Justly, conformable to justice; honestly, without injuring anyone; deservedly; as it is fit, proper, right. CWSD—New Testament.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (NKJV) *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

3) Blameless lifestyle

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV) *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

4) Both God and the Thessalonians were witnesses (Matt. 18:16; Acts 1:8, 5:32; Heb. 12:1)

a witness (literal [judicially] or figurative [genitive]); by analogy a martyr, record, witness.
Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

C. They had expected results

1) Exhorted, comforted, and charged them like a father

Exhorted (Matt. 8:5-6; Mark 1:40; Acts 2:40; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 10:24-25)

beg, urge; encourage, speak words of encouragement; request, ask, appeal to; console, comfort, cheer up; invite, summon. Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Comforted (John 11:19, 11:31; 1 Thess. 5:14)

console, comfort; encourage, cheer up. Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV) *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.*

Charged (John 1:15, 5:31-32; 1 Tim. 6:13; 1 John 1:1-4)

bear witness, testify, be a witness; attest, affirm, confirm; speak well of, approve (*pass.* be well spoken of, receive approval). Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the NT.

John 5:31-32 (NKJV) *"If I bear witness (vb) of Myself, My witness (nn) is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness (vb) of Me, and I know that the witness (nn) which He witnesses (vb) of Me is true.*

2) Walk worthy of God who calls you into HIS kingdom and glory

Walk (Matt. 15:31; Luke 5:22-23; Acts 3:8-9; Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:16-17; Col. 1:9-10; 1 John 1:6-7)

walk, go or move about; live, conduct oneself. Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the NT.

1 John 1:6-7 (NKJV) *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Worthy (Rom. 16:1-2; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:9-10; 3 John 1:5-6)

in a manner worthy of or suitable to. Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the NT.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NKJV) *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

II. Challenge for us—the reception of the Gospel

1) Thanksgiving for receiving the Gospel (Matt. 26:27; Jn 6:11; Rom. 1:8; Eph. 5:20; Rev. 11:15-17)

Matthew 26:27 (NKJV) *Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.*

2) Received it as the word of God

Acts 1:1 (NKJV) *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,*

3) Gospel produced effective results among them (1 Cor. 12:6; Eph 2:1-2; Phil 2:12-13; Jam. 5:16)

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV) *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

- How about us:

- Are we grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His kingdom?
- Are we receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His kingdom as the Word of God that is settled forever?
- Is the gospel producing effective results among us?