

Recall last week's lesson: "A Life of Purpose" In which we learned **Focus Thought**

Of course this come from our Focus Verse: **Who Remembers it?**

Phil 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel."

From Paul's perspective we might say, "**God's Love is the silver lining behind Paul's dark clouds of suffering.**

His Love Shines Through

Lesson 10

FOCUS THOUGHT

Because God loves and cares for us, He places people in our lives who will love and care for us.

This completes a Love Triangle: God's love must shine through every Christian if we are to be successful in fulfilling our purpose. Our sacrifices mean nothing if we don't love the people we minister to (**1 Co 13:3**). In fact, brotherly love is the true evidence that one is born again (**1 Jn 4:7**) (The initial evidence is speaking in tongues, but if love doesn't follow, speaking in tongues means nothing: (**1Co 13:1** ASV)

FOCUS VERSE

I Thessalonians 2:8

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

LESSON TEXT

I Thessalonians 2:1-12 - I'll read it as I cover the main points that these scriptures bring out.

I. PAUL WITHSTOOD STRONG OPPOSITION BECAUSE HE CARED FOR THE THESSALONIANS. His work was not in vain (**1 Th 2:1-2**) Paul was successful. He converted some of the Jews, and a great multitude of devout Gentiles, and many women were convinced. (See Acts 17:1-4.) But, not all believed. Some falsely charged him with conspiring against Roman rule (another king). But, Paul and Silas went to Berea where they were more noble and searched the scriptures. But, when the Jews at Thessalonica heard about it they sent people to Berea to stir people up. So Paul and Silas went to Athens where he preached to the Philosophers at Mars Hill. So Paul's letter to the Thessalonians is a defense of his true intentions in contrast to those that opposed him: Three reasons he preached to them:

A. **God Called Him There:** Paul and Barnabas split - Paul & Silas - Macedonian call - A new course to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea and Athens. (Paul's troubles were directing his course and ensuring success.)

B. **He Went There Because He Wanted to Please God not men** (**1 Th 2:3-4**) Not deceit nor uncleanness like the pagan priests. Nor to save their own hide at Philippi. (**1 Th 2:5-6**) The law is oppressive and often abused by priests who were greedy.

- **Act 15:10** Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

C. **He Shared the Gospel with the Thessalonians Because He Cared for Them** (**Focus Verse 1 Th 2:8**)

II. AS A MOTHER CARES FOR HER CHILDREN (1 Th 2:7, 9-10) Gentle as a nurse cherishes her children. Labor and travail as in giving birth. Hebrew word we translate Compassion = Comes from the word meaning Womb. A fertile place where new beginnings emerge. The gospel must be preached with a compassion for the lost.

A. **Shared the Gospel** - Can a man be a mother. Nurse = Nursemate (One who substitutes as a mother) providing the sincere milk of the word.

B. **Shared Their Lives Also**: "behaved ourselves among you" Pure - Justly and without blame. A mother's love is the most sincere love I've ever known.

Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and given her life for her child, proving the depths of her mother love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without doubt, one of England's greatest statesman.

III. AS A FATHER DEALS WITH HIS CHILDREN (1 Th 2:11-12) Paul was both a father and a mother to his Thessalonian converts. Children need both a mother and a father. If you are a single parent, you would be wise to fill both roles.

A. Encouraging - A father teaches a child how to do things that seem impossible and even dangerous (ride a bike, swim) Encouragement is needed when our courage is low. We can see it in our Heavenly Father's words to Joshua before the conquest.

B. Comforting: Not as a mother gives (hugging, consoling. But, to call alongside - The comforter. Someone to stand with you in tough times.

C. Urging Them to Live Lives Worthy of God. Hold your head up. Be tough, Be true to your word.

I remember daddy's hands folded silently in prayer
And reachin' out to hold me, when I had a nightmare
You could read quite a story in the callous' and lines
Years of work and worry had left their mark behind
I remember daddy's hands how they held my mama tight
And patted my back for something done right
There are things that I'd forgotten that I loved about the man
But I'll always remember the love in daddy's hands
Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin'
Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong
Daddy's hands weren't always gentle but I've come to understand
There was always love in daddy's hands
I remember daddy's hands workin' 'til they bled
Sacrificed unselfishly just to keep us all fed
If I could do things over, I'd live my life again
And never take for granted the love in daddy's hands

IV. GOD PLACES PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES WHO CARE FOR US **Focus:** Because God loves and cares for us, He places people in our lives who will love and care for us. (Gen 2:18) **Focus Verse (1 Th 2:8)**

The word translated "imparted" means to give over, that is share. But it's deeper meaning is better understood when we understand it comes from two root word, meaning "to accompany" and "give." In essence, when we care for someone enough to share the gospel, we complete the **Love Triangle of God**. This fulfills the whole law of God and makes us complete in Christ.

The greatest commandments hang on two:

Mar 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Mar 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

