



# Gospel Integrity

1 Thessalonians 2:1-7a

# 1 Thessalonians 2:1-7a

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not in vain, but after we had  
already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi,  
as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak  
to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.  
For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity  
or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved  
by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak,  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.



# 1 Thessalonians 2:1-7a

For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness — nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority, *but we became like infants among you.*

## 2:7b-8

As a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children, having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

# **Main Point**

The message of the gospel is true,  
and its truth is supported and  
strengthened by the integrity  
of the messengers God sent.

The aim of the opposition  
was to discredit the message  
by discrediting the messengers.

Paul's primary concern was not to defend  
himself but to establish the gospel.

# **Gospel Integrity**

**Their coming was not empty but was filled with courageous conviction.**



## **1 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not in vain,  
but after we had already suffered and been  
mistreated in Philippi, as you know,  
we had the boldness in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God amid much opposition.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,

that **our coming to you was not in vain,**

but after we had already suffered and been  
mistreated in Philippi, as you know,  
we had the boldness in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God amid much opposition.



## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,

that **our coming to you was not empty,**

but after we had already suffered and been  
mistreated in Philippi, as you know,  
we had the boldness in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God amid much opposition.



**Not empty but courageously convicted**

They had already been mistreated in  
Philippi yet went to Thessalonica anyway.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty, but after we  
had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi,  
as you know, we had the boldness in our God  
to speak to you the gospel of God  
amid much opposition.



## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,

that our coming to you was not empty, but **after we**  
**had already suffered and been**  
**mistreated in Philippi,**

as you know, we had the boldness in our God  
to speak to you the gospel of God  
amid much opposition.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty, but after we  
had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi,

as you know, **we had the boldness** in our God  
**to speak to you the gospel of God**  
amid much opposition.

If they had merely been traveling sophists, they would not have gone on to Thessalonica having been so mistreated in Philippi.



# What produced their boldness?

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty, but after we  
had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi,

as you know, **we had the boldness** in our God  
**to speak to you the gospel** of God  
amid much opposition.

# What produced their boldness?

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty, but after we  
had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi,

as you know, we had the **boldness in our God**

to speak to you the gospel of God  
amid much opposition.

Their boldness came *from* God  
and was due to their faith *in* God.

## **1 Thessalonians 1:5**

For our gospel did not come to you in word only,  
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit  
and with full conviction.



# **Not empty but courageously convicted**

They had already been mistreated in Philippi yet went to Thessalonica anyway.

**They were greatly opposed in Thessalonica  
yet preached the gospel anyway.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty,  
but after we had already suffered and been  
mistreated in Philippi, as you know,  
we had the boldness in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God amid much opposition.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty,  
but after we had already suffered and been  
mistreated in Philippi, as you know,  
we had the boldness in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God **amid much opposition.**



## **1 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

For you yourselves know, brethren,  
that our coming to you was not empty,  
but after we had already suffered and been  
mistreated in Philippi, as you know,

**we had the boldness** in our God **to**  
**speak to you the gospel**  
of God amid much opposition.

If they had not been truly convinced of what they preached, they would have abandoned the message when the opposition mounted.

# Why did they persevere?

## 2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things,  
but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed  
and I am convinced that He is able to guard what  
I have entrusted to Him until that day.



# Why did they persevere?

2 Timothy 1:12

**For this reason I** also **suffer these things,**

but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed  
and I am convinced that He is able to guard what  
I have entrusted to Him until that day.

# Why did they persevere?

2 Timothy 1:12

**For** this reason I also suffer these things,

but **I am not ashamed**; for I know whom I have believed  
and I am convinced that He is able to guard what  
I have entrusted to Him until that day.

# Why did they persevere?

## 2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things,

but I am not ashamed; **for** I know whom I have believed

and **I am convinced** that He is able to guard what  
I have entrusted to Him until that day.

# Why did they persevere?

## 2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things,

but I am not ashamed; **for I know whom I have  
believed**

and I am convinced that He is able to guard what  
I have entrusted to Him until that day.



The degree to which you know  
Christ and are convinced of His gospel  
is the degree to which you will  
endure the sufferings that will come  
and stay on the course set before you.

# **Gospel Integrity**

Their coming was not empty but was filled with courageous conviction.

**Their teaching was not tailored to please men but was entrusted to them by God.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity  
or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved

by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so **we speak,**  
***not as pleasing men***, but God who examines our hearts.





**Not manmade but God-given**

Their teaching was *not*  
manmade messaging.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:3**

For our exhortation does not come from error  
or impurity or by way of deceit.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3

For **our exhortation** does not come from error  
or impurity or by way of deceit.

**1 Thessalonians 2:3**

For our exhortation **does not come from error**  
or impurity or by way of deceit.



## 1 Thessalonians 2:3

For our exhortation does **not** come **from *deception***  
or impurity or by way of deceit.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3

For our exhortation does **not** come *from* **deception**  
or impurity or by way of deceit.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3

For our exhortation does **not** come **from** deception  
or **impurity** or by way of deceit.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3

For our exhortation does **not** come from deception  
or impurity or **by way of deceit.**



The appeal they had made to the Thessalonians was not based on a message or method designed to tickle ears and take people in.

It was based on the hard but gracious truth of life in Christ.



# **Not manmade but God-given**

Their teaching was not manmade messaging.

**Their teaching was what God  
had entrusted to them.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.



## 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity

or by way of deceit; but just as **we have been** approved

by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak,  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.



How dangerous to distort or dampen  
the message God has given.

**Galatians 1:8-9**

But even if we, or an angel from heaven,  
should preach to you a gospel contrary to what  
we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man  
is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received,  
he is to be accursed!

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity

or by way of deceit; but just as **we have been** approved

by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak,  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity  
or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved

by God to be entrusted with the gospel, **so we speak,**  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

If we are to be faithful to our God,  
we must be faithful to speak  
the true gospel He has entrusted  
to us with careful clarity and  
courageous conviction.



# Gospel Integrity

Their coming was not empty but was filled with courageous conviction.

Their teaching was not tailored to men but was entrusted to them by God.

**Their motives were not self-serving  
but were aimed at pleasing God.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:4-7a**

But just as we have been approved  
by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak,  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.  
For we never came with flattering speech, as you know,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness — nor did  
we seek glory from men, either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted  
our authority, but we became like infants among you.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:4-7a

But just as we have been approved  
by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak,

**not as pleasing men, but God** who examines our hearts.

For we never came with flattering speech, as you know,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness — nor did  
we seek glory from men, either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted  
our authority, but we became like infants among you.





**Not self-serving but God-pleasing**

Their hearts had been examined  
and approved by God.



## **1 Thessalonians 2:4**

But just as we have been approved  
by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak,  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:4

But just as we have been approved  
by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak,

not as pleasing men, but **God** who **examines our hearts.**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:4

But just as **we have been approved  
by God**

to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak,  
not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

## 2 Corinthians 10:18

For it is not he who commends himself that is approved,  
but he whom the Lord commends.



The background of the image is a faded, sepia-toned map. It shows a network of roads, rivers, and lakes. Several place names are visible, including "Waiouru" on the left, "Salisbury" in the center, and "Taranaki" on the right. The map is oriented with North at the top.

# **Not self-serving but God-pleasing**

Their hearts had been examined and approved by God.

**Their message had been straight  
forward and free of flattery.**



## **1 Thessalonians 2:5**

For we never came with flattering speech, as you know,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:5

For we never came **with flattering speech**, as you know,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:5

For we never came **with *a word* of flattery**, as you know,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:5

For we never came with a word of flattery, **as you know**,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness.

Even among pagan philosophers,  
flattery was despised.



*“And when I catch sight of a man who is rich and thick, I at once get my hooks into him. If this money-bags happens to say anything, I praise him vehemently and express my amazement, pretending to find delight in his words.”*

*(Eupolis)*

## 1 Thessalonians 2:5

For **we never came with a word of flattery,**

as you know,  
nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:5

For we never came with a word of flattery, as you know,

**nor with a pretext for greed** — God is witness.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:5**

For we never came with a word of flattery, as you know,

nor with a pretext for greed — **God is witness.**





# **Not self-serving but God pleasing**

Their hearts had been examined and approved by God.

Their message had been straight forward and free of flattery.

**They had not demanded glory  
but had been like infants.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a**

...nor did we seek glory from men,  
either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ  
we might have asserted our authority,  
but we became like infants among you.

1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a

**...nor did we seek glory from men,**

either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ  
we might have asserted our authority,  
but we became like infants among you.



Public speech giving was nearly a sport, with the most successful orators being treated like superstar athletes or Hollywood celebrities.



1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a

**...nor did we seek glory from men,**

either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ  
we might have asserted our authority,  
but we became like infants among you.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a

...nor did we seek glory from men,

**either from you or from others,**

even though as apostles of Christ  
we might have asserted our authority,  
but we became like infants among you.

### **Galatians 1:10**

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God?

Or am I striving to please men?

If I were still trying to please men,  
I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

### **Proverbs 29:25**

The fear of man brings a snare,  
But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a

**...nor did we seek glory from men,**

either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ  
we might have asserted our authority,  
but we became like infants among you.



## **1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a**

...nor did we seek glory from men,  
either from you or from others,

**even though as apostles of Christ  
we might have asserted our authority,**  
but we became like infants among you.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a

...nor did we seek glory from men,  
either from you or from others,

**even though as apostles** of Christ

**we had weight,**

but we became like infants among you.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a**

...nor did we seek glory from men,  
either from you or from others,  
even though as apostles of Christ  
we had weight,

**but we became like infants among you.**

Their conduct stood in stark contrast to the caricature painted by their opponents and testified, not to their own weight as apostles, but to the weight of the message they had proclaimed.



# Conclusion

Do you know *what* you have believed?

Do you know *whom* you have believed?

Are you tempted to tailor the message to the one with whom you're speaking?

Has fear of man become a snare to you or are you resting in the approval of your Lord?