

The Church and The Blessed Hope **“The Marks of a Model Ministry” (B)** **I Thessalonians 2:7-12**

Introduction - Gentlemen, understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications: I’ve been a preacher with much success and also had some success as a writer. Some say I’m a good organizer. I’ve been a leader most places I’ve been.

I’m over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of my wrongdoing. My health is not good, though I still get a great deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I’ve not got along well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized.

However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you.

Paul

We are looking at “The Marks of a Model Ministry.” Paul was under attack from unbelieving Jews who were seeking to discredit him and undermine his authority. From Paul’s defense we discover the qualities that should be found in every true minister or servant of Jesus Christ!

In verses 1-6 we learned that the first mark of a model minister is a *faithful steward*.

We will see two more metaphors of the minister:

1. A Gentle Mother
2. A Concerned Father

I. A Gentle Mother, vv. 7-8

The focus of a steward is *faithfulness*. The chief mark of a mother is *gentleness*. The intended between the end of verse 6 and verse 7. Paul was an apostle, yet he always used his authority with *gentleness, affection, and self-sacrifice*.

1. Gentleness, vs. 7

It’s amazing that a man as masculine as Paul would use a feminine metaphor. It’s the picture of a mother with her very own children as she nurses, fondles, and cherishes, literally to warm with body heat.

Paul and his missionary group were far from trying to promote their own interests, they were like a gentle mother!

2. Affection, vs. 8

“*So being affectionately desirous of you & ye were dear to us.*”

- **Illustration** - D.L. Moody, “they really love a fella over there.”
- It’s speaking to truth in love! Rom. 5:5

3. Self-Sacrifice, vs. 8

“*We were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls.*”

Paul and his missions team gave not only the message, but themselves! They gave their *souls*, their inner being, their entire personalities. So no cold professionalism, *because you were dear to us*.

Lessons from a nursing mother:

1. It takes time and sacrifice!
2. A nursing mother imparts her own life to the child.
 - A nursing mother must watch her own nourishment.
 - Feed yourself to feed others!
 - Milk and meat.
 - We all need to help babies the grow.
3. It takes patience.
4. A nursing mother “protects” her child. **Illustration** - I Kings 3

II. A Concerned Father, vv. 9-12

“*As a father doth his children,*” vs. 11. The Spirit of God had used the man of God; preaching the Word of God; to bring sinners into the family of God. Paul had become the spiritual father, I Cor. 4:15.

Paul points out three things that marked his ministry among them as a father:

1. Hard Work, vs. 9

Paul had a right to be supported.

- I Cor. 9:
 - Warfare at his own charge?
 - Planteth a vineyard and not eat?
 - Fee the folk and not drink the milk?

- Duet. 25:4:
 - “*thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn....*”

Yet Paul gave up his rights! I Cor. 9:14-16.

vs. 9, Paul *labored*, it speaks of toil and travail is hardship. Night and day! Paul the tentmaker!

Illustration - Every Jewish boy learned a trade!

Illustration - The Talmud required that every Jewish father must circumcise his son, instruct him in the law, and teach him a trade. It was a saying of the rabbis that “*he who teacheth not his son doth the same as if he taught him to be a thief.*”

Paul wanted to be a blessing, not a burden, so he worked hard! He preached the gospel of God freely!

What is the gospel of God?

- Justified
- Sanctified
- Glorified

Do you give up your rights so you can be a blessing to others?

2. Holy Walk, vs. 10

Father’s must be good examples to their children. Paul could call both believers and God as witnesses.

Three ways Paul lived, vs. 10:

- A. Holy - Literally, devout, it’s pleasing to God; fulfilling the duties God gives to us. We get our word *pious*.

- B. Justly or Righteous - It’s living with integrity before men. It’s honest.

- C. Unblamable - Not able to find fault in. Faultless.

I Tim. 3:2, “*A Bishop then must be blameless....*”

Phil. 2:15, “*That ye may be blameless and harmless (pure) the son’s of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among who ye shine as lights in the world.*”

vs. 10, “*We behaved ourselves among you that believe.*” Do you?

3. Wise Words, vv. 11-12

A father must:

1. Support the family by his work.
2. Bless his family by his example.
3. Teach his family with his words.

Paul dealt with each believer personally!

How?

- A. Exhorted - To encourage. Literally, call to one’s side. Feed the sheep, don’t beat the sheep!
- B. Comforted - Encouragement with emphasis on activity.
- C. Charged - Every one of you! It’s to testify out of one’s own experience to give personal witness!

2 Cor. 1:4

My heart as a Pastor!

What’s the goal or purpose? Verse 12, study it!

II John 4, “*no greater joy...*”

Note, verse 12, “*called you,*” present tense! “*Who is continually calling you.*”

1. Faithful Steward

2. Gentle Mother

3. Concerned Father

To help the family grow!

