

# NOT AS A HUMAN WORD, BUT THE WORD OF GOD

1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Key Verse: 2:13

**“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.”**

1. What did Paul<sup>1</sup> want the Thessalonians to realize (1)? What had been Paul’s condition and how could he preach the gospel to them (2; Ac 16:22-25)? How is God’s intention and purpose revealed through this (Ac 16:9)?
2. How did Paul defend his ministry from false accusations (3-6a)? What motivated him to preach the gospel (4; Ac 9:15; Gal 2:7)? What can gospel workers learn about motivation?
3. What authority did Paul have and how did he use it (6b-7a)? What do the words “nursing mother” imply (7b-8)? How had Paul expressed his love for them? Why is it important to share life together as well as the gospel message?
4. How did Paul live a life worthy of God among them (9-10)? How did this affect his gospel preaching? What do the words “as a father deals with his own children” tell us about their relationship (11)? What did he do and for what purpose (12)?
5. Read verse 13. What did Paul continually thank God for? What did he mean by “the word of God”? What difference does it make to view it as the word of God, not as a human word? Why is it so important to accept the word of God as it actually is (2Ti 3:15-17)?
6. In what respect did they imitate God’s churches in Judea and how did this encourage them (14)? How does Paul describe the enemies of the gospel (15-16a)? What happens to them (16b)?

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<sup>1</sup> The reference to “Paul” means not only Paul, but also his mission team members: Silas, Timothy and Luke.