

# Sermon Handout

## The Effect of Faithful Witness

### I Thessalonians 1:8-2:8

- I.** The Sounding of the Gospel 1:8-10
  - a. “You sounded out the Word” – as a trumpet’s call v. 8a
  - b. Wherever their testimony is heard (esp. in Greece) v. 8b
  - c. Speaks louder than Paul’s own preaching & confirms it v. 8c
  - d. Those hearing bore testimony to:
    - i. Paul’s effective preaching of the Word v. 9a
    - ii. The Thessalonians’ “turning” from idols to Christ v. 9b
  - e. The content of their faith v. 10
    - i. Confident expectation of Christ’s coming
    - ii. The resurrection of Jesus
    - iii. Deliverance from the wrath of God (his hatred of sin)
  
- II.** The Apostolic Presentation 2:1-6
  - a. The message was not empty or meaningless v. 1  
*contra* – it was bold v. 2 (after the stress of Philippi, Acts 16)
  - b. The appeal by Paul and Silas v. 3 (for “appeal” *see* Acts 13:15-43)
    - i. No falsehood or error (*contra* II Tim 3:13)  
They brought the word of truth Col 1:5
    - ii. No uncleanness (sensuality) *cf.* Rom 6:19; I Thess 4:7  
Contrast with sexualized idol worship (*see* 1:9)
    - iii. No guile (trickery) *cf.* II Cor 11:13; 2:17; 4:2  
“We did not attempt to trap you.”  
Consider the testimony in Beria – Acts 17:11
  - c. They were faithful to the trust God placed in them vv. 4-6
    - i. Committed to pleasing God, not men v. 4
    - ii. Plainly spoke the challenge of the gospel vv. 5-6  
No flattery (*cf.* trickery in v. 3)  
No covetousness – self-serving effort  
Not seeking glory – not placing a burden on the hearers
  
- III.** A ministry of gentleness and affection 2:7-8
  - a. Gentleness among the converts (metaphor of a nurse with children)  
Patience and integrity, constancy
  - b. Love and affection – desiring good w/o regard to their own wants  
Pouring out not just words, but life (“our own souls”)