**I Thessalonians 2 – The Growth of a Church!**

**Paul listed the most prominent characteristics of a disciple of Jesus Christ in his letter to the Corinthians: “Not abide faith, hope, and love…. But the greatest of these is love” (II Corinthians 13: 13). It appears from chapter one of Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians that they were true disciples of Jesus Christ for those 3 commendable actions were listed in verse 3: works of faith, labor of love, patience in hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”. Their lives had been changed after having received the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now Paul will continue to encourage them and instruct them in their new life as Christians.**

**Opening Question: The new season of autumn begins today. What season of your life (spiritual, physical, social) are you moving out of? What new season in life is upon you? What is your prayer to walk through this new season successfully?**

**Read chapter 2 and prepare to discuss the following questions**

**1. What was Paul’s motivation for preaching the gospel in Thessalonica? What did others claim his motivation was?**

**2. How did Paul, Silas, and Timothy conduct themselves among the Thessalonians? What are some “methods” you’ve seen used in Christian ministries today that make you feel uneasy in their communicating of the gospel?**

**3. How did the Thessalonian church imitate the churches of God in Judea? Who did you/do you “imitate” in Christ? Why? Who imitates you? How so?**

**Memory verse: “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” (I Thes. 2:19)**

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