**Paul's Ministry to the Thessalonians**

2 For you yourselves know, brothers,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%202:1-13&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-29555a" \o "See footnote a)] that our coming to you was not in vain. 2But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. 3For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. 5For we never came with words of flattery,[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%202:1-13&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29559b)] as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7But we were gentle[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%202:1-13&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29561c)] among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

9For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11For you know how, like a father with his children, 12we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

13And we also thank God constantly[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%202:1-13&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29567d)] for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%202:1-13&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29567e)] but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.