

CHURCH MISSIONARY MINISTRY

In our [previous study](#) we explained why we divided chapter **TWO** into four sections based on the word, **Brethren**:

- **1 Thess.2:1-8**
 - (vs.1), “For you yourselves know, **brethren**, that our coming to you was not in vain.”
- **1 Thess.2:9-13**
 - (vs.9), “For you recall, **brethren**, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”
- **1 Thess.2:14-16**
 - (vs.14) “For you, **brethren**, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,
- **1 Thess.2:17-20**
 - (vs.17) “But we, **brethren**, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit - were all the more eager with great desire to see your face”.

This lesson comes from 1 Thess.2:9-13 where Paul reminds the Thessalonians church of hardship and oppositions in missionary ministries.

A personal Note: This lesson text makes me so appreciative of your generosity, as a church body, to support my ministry and my family over the past 47 years.

(1 Thess.2:9) “As for you recall, brethren, our labor and hardships, how working night and day **so as not to be a burden to any of you** we proclaim to you the gospel of God.”

I have been blessed to pastor a spiritually mature body of believers from my first day until now. I compare our church with the **Church of Philadelphia** (Rev.3:7-13) [The 6th of 7 churches].

(Rev.3:8) “I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an **open door which no man can shut**, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

Spiritually Mature Church: “As I was preparing this lesson, I began to write down our missionary ministries both foreign and home. I am not exaggerating when I tell you **EVERYONE** who attends on a regular basis was included, as well as many who have gone to other geographical location and are engaged either in home or foreign missionary ministries.”

This lesson will study five aspects of a Spiritually Mature Church involved in Missionary Ministry.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletic points of a church with missionary ministries.

(1 Thess.2:9) **Working for God** means not being a burden to others of grace gospel of Jesus Christ.

(1 Thess.2:10-11) **Witness of God** means to be a spiritual father in disciplining new believers in Lord.

(1 Thess.2:12) **Walk with God** means to be worthy of God, His kingdom, and His glory in the world.

(1 Thess.2:13) **Word of God** means to perform God work of missionary ministries both home and abroad.

2. In (1 Thess.2:9), Paul explains that the burden should rest on the believing missionary and not on those unbelievers receiving the ministry.

Paul reminds those engaged in missionary ministries that they need a universal trade skill, personal financial independence, or other believers and churches to support their ministry.

Paul did not want the message of Grace Salvation to have an appearance of being “chargeable”. There was a cost, and the price was paid in full by Jesus Christ! (John 19:30) “It is finished.” (1 Cor.6:19-20)

Paul described **the burden** as “labor, hardship, and working night and day.” (Acts 18:3) Earlier he described it as “suffering, mistreated, and opposition” (1 Thess.2:2, 14) (1 Thess.3:4-5, 7) (2 Cor.11:23-28).

- We are a phenomenal spiritually mature church with missionary ministries locally, nationally, and internationally.
- We have had a great missionary ministry over the past 47 years. Large numbers of believers have flowed through our church for study and training; and are located all over the USA and world today.

3. In (1 Thess.2:10-11), Paul reminds those engaged in missionary ministry that they must disciple newborn believers in their salvation.

(1 Thess.2:11) “**Just as you know how** we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring **each one** of you as a **father would his own children.**”

(Heb.5:12) “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for **someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God**, and you have come to **need milk** and not solid food (meat).”

(1Pet.2:2) “Like newborn babies, long for the **pure milk of the word**, so that by it you may **grow in respect to salvation.**” (John 10:28-30; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-13)

4. In (1 Thess.2:12), we are told reaching and maintain spiritual growth maturity is “so that you would walk in a manner worthy (to peripateo/ p.a.infin/ axios) of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

(Eph.4:1) “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.**”

(Col.1:10) “So that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

5. In (1 Thess.2:13), Paul reminds the church that the “word of God will perform its work (energeo/ p.m.ind.3ps) in you who believe (pisteuo/ p.a.ptc.dplm).”

(Rom.4:21) “And being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.”

(Heb.4:12) “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.