

**Series: A Model Church**

**Title: A Strong Clergy**

**Text: (1 Thess 2:1-12)**

### **C. A Strong & True Minister: 2:1-12**

A Model Church will have a Strong & True Minister.

(vs 4) cross reference to (Gal 1:10)

You cannot please God and men at the same time.

Aim of this Lesson: To Understand and appreciate the great call & work of any preacher

Themes verse: (1 Thes 2:10)

*Illus:* When you are sick, you go to a Dr. office.

*Of all the papers found in that office, the one that interests you most is the one in a frame on the wall:*

*His degree.*

*It authenticates his ability to give you the care you need.*

The Opposition to Paul was intense in Thessalonica. The Jews would make repeated false accusations against Paul.

The Jews would start false rumors against Paul to destroy his credibility.

Paul knew how easily people are influenced by charges and rumors. & how easily exaggerated.

Paul wanted no misunderstanding about him.

He knew he was True Minister of a True Gospel:

(1 Thes 2:12)

**11 Points: A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...**

#### **1. That has a full a fruitful ministry: (Vs 1)**

Not Vain - Empty, ineffective, fruitless

The charge against him: that God was not with him, was false.

*“For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:” “Where’s the Fruit!”*

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

#### **2. That preaches Boldly: (Vs 2)**

*“But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.” (Acts 16)*

Paul had been shamefully treated by some businessmen in Philippi.

This did not discourage him to quit.

Bold preaching is proof of a True & strong minister.

Boldly preaching of the gospel regardless of the circumstances.

The pulpit is for the Bold preaching of the Gospel not for answering his critics. (Facebook Rants)

(2 Tim 4:2) *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

After their mistreatment, They Were BOLD! (Vs 2)

***Are you bold in your witness?***

***What is your greatest fear in your Witness?***

***What if someone asks you a question you cannot answer?***

***What can you do to overcome your fears of sharing your faith?***

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**3. That preaches the Gosepl w/ pure Motives (V 3)**

*“For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:”*

***not of deceit*** = Error:

Paul was accused of preaching false doctrine.

Paul didn't add to or take away from the Word of God

Paul did not skip over controversial topics to save face in the community.

Paul did not tickle the ears of people by preaching messages that are palatable to the flesh.

Paul did not preach for people's approval.

Paul did not skip over the topics of Sin & Judgement.

Paul did not preach to secure his lively hood or attract a following.

Paul did not preach his own ideas or the ideas of men.

Paul did not follow the latest theological fads to seem to be up to date & well read.

Paul was an Ambassador of God to proclaim the message of the King to men.

Men do not have the right to change the message.

Men do not have the right to change the Word of God.

Men do not have the right to change the Method, Bible Preaching.

***nor of uncleanness*** = Immorality:

Paul was accused of living in Immorality.

Paul Preached from a clean life.

This accusation was not out of Character for the day in which he lived.

Immorality Permeated religious life, just like today.

Paul did not preach to attack women for his pleasure.

**2 Lessons we must keep as followers of Jesus Christ.**

1. Some believers have rumors spread about them.

Rumors build upon Rumors.

All Rumors hurt the testimony of Christ & make it hard for the lost to come to Jesus.

2. Some Believers DO fall into immorality.

***Nor Guile*** = W/o Fraud or Hypocrisy

Paul did not deceive the people through his preaching. Paul was not Preaching to live a comfortable life, or for financial Gain.

Paul preached a Sincere and True Gospel.  
No Hypocrisy: or a Double Standard w/Paul  
Paul lived a Pure & Righteous life w/ the people there (Titus 2:1) *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

We do not have the right to pick & choose what is preached/ignored in the bible.

***Why is it important to preach God's Word alone?  
When someone rejects the Gospel, who are they really rejecting? You? NO! Jesus.  
What is the key to remain morally pure?  
Can a person remain morally pure in this society:  
Yes***

If you fail, there is space for Forgiveness.  
We have an Advocate with the Father. (1 Jn 2:1-2)

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**4. That preaches to please God & not Men: (Vs 4)**  
*But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

Most people do not want to hear about Sin/Judgement

Or the Utter Necessity to depend upon Faith in Christ to be saved.

Or the Submission of all we are to Christ in order to meet the desperate needs of a lost and dying World.  
The Preaching of God's Word is not always popular.  
A Model church has a preacher/Teachers that will not skirt controversial issues.

***“we were allowed of God”***

God called him, God sent him, God will protect him, God will provide for him.

A pastor cannot let his livelihood determine his preaching.

God alone will try the pastor's heart & reveal it to all, and call him into question over it.

(Prov 29:25) *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

***We should never water down the Gospel.***

***What are the affects of a Diluted Gospel?***

***What Good is it doing today?***

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**5. That is not preaching for Personal Gain:**  
***(i.e) what he can get out of it: (Vs 5)***

*For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:*

***Bro. Bob: If you can do anything else, Do It! (I Can't)***

Paul was not preaching for Financial/Emotional Gain.  
Paul didn't butter people up.

Paul Covered their weak areas and praised their strong areas of their lives.  
(Prov 17:9) *He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.*

***Paul did Commend people in the bible, but not for his gain, but to encourage them in the faith.***  
(Job 32:21-22) *Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. 22 For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away.*  
***What gets Rewarded, Gets Repeated.***

Paul was being accused of ***Covetousness***. (Vs 5)  
Paul denies this allegation and reminds them that they were witness to his behavior among them.

(Rom 13:8) *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**6. That does not preach for Personal Glory, Prestige, or Social Position: (Vs 6)**

*Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.*

Paul didn't preach for Glory, Prestige Or a Book Deal.  
Paul was not out for Recognition, leader, or position:  
(Matt 20:26-28)

Paul was humbled by his position as an apostle/  
preacher of the Gospel.  
Paul mentions his call of God in every letter to exalt the God who called him, the the man that God called.  
Pastors are not called to lord over God's people.  
(1 Pet 1:1-3)

***How does the world Measure Success?  
Is the pastor to seek for the same success as measured by the World? - Are you?***

***Why was Paul blessed with so much responsibility?  
Can God trust you & I with that much?  
Do think God Considers you to be Trustworthy?  
How do we increase God's Trust in Us?***

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**7. He preaches Gently & Lovingly: (Vs 7-8)**

Paul was gentle.  
Paul treated them as Precious.  
Paul's affection for them was steadfast even during opposition.  
(2 Tim 2:24-26)

*Are you Gentle toward those who won't listen?  
Are you Gentle toward those who are not ready to  
follow you?*

*Is Gentleness something that describes you?*

**Paul Loved them:** *You can give of yourself w/o  
loving, but you cannot Love w/o giving of yourself.*

**Paul was willing to Spend his life for them.**  
(2 Cor 12:15) *And I will very gladly spend and be  
spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you,  
the less I be loved.*

***Are we Willing to Spend -***

*Give all the effort we have for the Gospel?*

***Are we Willing to be Spent -***

*Give all that we are for the Gospel?*

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**8. That preaches, laboring night & day: (Vs 9)**

*For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail:  
for labouring night and day, because we would not be  
chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the  
gospel of God.*

***“for labouring night and day,”***

Ministry is not a 9-5 job.

People are Messy.

Crisis never happens at a convenient time for anyone.

***How are we spending our time each week?***

***Are the lost allowed to inconvenience your week?  
Is your ministry allowed to inconvenience your wk?***

***“would not be chargeable unto any of you”***  
Paul did not want to have blood on his hands.  
***Are we even concerned about it?***

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**9. That Lives a life above reproach: (Vs 10)**

*Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly  
and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you  
that believe:*

Paul was being Accused of living a Sinful Life.  
Paul lived a “Holy”: Impeccable Life in front of them.  
Paul lived a “Just” - Separated life in front of them.  
Paul lived an “Unblameable” life in front of them.

(Acts 24:16) *And herein do I exercise myself, to have  
always a conscience void of offence toward God, and  
toward men.*

***You too can live a life that is Sanctified for God.  
We are tempted to skip back to satisfying our flesh.***  
Our Desire to please the Lord keeps us from defiling  
our lives.

***What kind of gift would your current personal  
holiness be to the Lord?***

***Is our life above reproach.***

***How can we live a more consistent life for Christ?***

*A Model Church has a Strong Clergy...*

**10. That preaches as a Father, tenderly giving direction: (Vs 11)**

*As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,*

I function as Pastor/Preacher: Like Father & Daddy

***3 Fatherly Functions:***

Exhortation: (Father) Directs, Guides & teaches.

*(1 Cor 14:31) For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*

Comfort: (Daddy) Encourages, Consoles, Relieves, Lifts Up, Eases Pain.

*(Phil 2:1-2) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

***Sometimes I will call you just cause I love you.***

Charges: (Father) Directs/ Provides Accountability.

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**11. That preaches 1 objective: Edification: (Vs 12)**

Not for self glory/gratification.

To Build, To Increase, To Grow, To Strengthen.

*Teaching kids to ride w/training wheels...then remove*

I want you to know God -I want you to Grow.

I want you to Reach your Full Potential.