

1 Thessalonians 2

Week beginning: 26th April 2009

Welcome: The Thessalonian church was only a few months old when Paul wrote this letter to them. Do you remember when you were a new Christian? Share with each other how it felt.

Worship: The early church had to be creative in their worship, because no one had previously written songs to Jesus. How can you be creative in your cell's worship? Why not take a familiar hymn or song tune and write a verse or two of praise, and then sing it together.

Word:

Don't Be Cynical - Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

In Matthew 10:16 Jesus says we should be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves". What does this mean and what practical examples can you think of by which we can find the right balance in this? You might want to think about American Televangelists as an example.

Don't Compromise - Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

We can often appear odd to our friends who don't have a faith in Jesus. How can we explain to them what a difference Jesus has made in our lives without appearing threatening or aggressive?

Don't be Downhearted - Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

We are all valuable to God and to each other. The things that we lose in becoming Christians, such as credibility with our atheistic friends, are in the end insignificant compared to the love and future hope we have found in Jesus.

Encourage each other by sharing how much you appreciate one another!

Witness

The Thessalonians had been introduced to the gospel by Paul and he was able to remind them that he had not been in any way inappropriate in the way he behaved around them. He had acted only in their best interests. How can we make sure that we do our own evangelism with similarly pure motives? Discuss.