

1 Thessalonians 2

Week 5: "Genuine Fellowship"

There was a lot of cynicism in Paul's day – A "Come on, what's the catch?" mentality. "What do you really want?" There are even historical records that suggest that traveling philosophers could pay certain groups to help "promote" them and their efforts. They could pay people in crowds to cheer or create a sense of hype, when in reality there was nothing.

There's a lot of cynicism in our day, along with the feeling that the "hype" of new ideas, individuals, or groups seems to be occurring more and more! People are skeptical & suspicious. Which is why "Genuine Faith" matters. Paul will continue his thoughts from the beginning of Chapter 2 and remind them of their "Genuine Relationship"!

The gospel frees us from putting up a front and enables us to walk in love with one another. Because Jesus has loved us sincerely and given his life away we can now love others sincerely and give our lives away as well. We are in this together!

Questions for the Week:

1. What verse or thought did you want to revisit from the message time this week
2. Based on your reading of this passage, try to put the theme of 1 Thessalonians 2:1-19 in one sentence.
3. According to 2:15b-16 the Jews hindered the apostles speaking to the Gentiles "so that they might be saved." What important principles and truths should we glean from this?
4. Where did Paul learn the kind of loving leadership he displayed? Consider Philippians 2:3-9; Ephesians 5:2; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 1 John 4:7-11

Memory Verse:

1 Thessalonians 2:17 (ESV) 17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,