

February 4, 2022

**We Are...**

Pastor Danny de Armas

**Passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

*1For you yourselves know, brothers, 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, 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 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.*

**Background**

This week we begin a new series as a “re-introduction” to both our faith family and the community around us. With many new faces in attendance (and online), we want everyone to know *who* we are and *how* we seek to follow Jesus and lead others to do the same. Today, Pastor Danny de Armas will explain the manner in which Paul ministered to those in the city of Thessalonica and how his approach is a great model for our church to *be* FOR ORLANDO. Paul’s ministry philosophy, and ours as well, is to share both the Good News of Jesus AND our own lives with those in the areas where we live, work, and play. May God continue to make us a family of believers who tell the message of Jesus and also show the love of Jesus.

**Service Notes**

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## Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

## Getting Started

- What is one specific way God has shown His faithfulness to you this week? Is there any way we can pray for one another?

## Talk it Over

- **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6.** How does Paul describe the circumstances out of which they came to preach the Gospel to the city of Thessalonica? How does Paul describe their approach to the city of Thessalonica? What do you think it means for them to speak so they “please God rather than man” or that they avoided “words of flattery” and “greed”? Why would coming into the city “making demands” (vs. 6) hinder Paul’s gospel witness? What are ways churches today can hinder their ability to minister/engage their cities?
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8.** In these verses, how does Paul describe the way they ministered to the city? What do you think this looked like practically? How do you believe WE (individually and corporately) can engage our cities in similar ways as Paul describes? What would it look like in your daily context to not only share the Gospel but your *life* with others around you?
- **Read Romans 12:9-21.** What stands out in these verses? How can Paul’s instructions to the church at Rome shape our daily attitude to those in our own city? What would you consider the most difficult command to follow? What are the obstacles to overcome to live with this approach to the places and people with whom we live, work, and play?

## Live it Out

- What is one action you can take this week to build a stronger relationship with someone who is far from God?
- Daily Scripture reading can be found at [www.firstorlando.com/40days](http://www.firstorlando.com/40days).