

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

A Worthy Walk

A worthy walk:

1. Walking during difficult circumstances
2. Walking for God's approval
3. Walking considering others

Walking during difficult circumstances

1 Thess 2:1-3 - God does not _____ difficult things from our path. God expects us to be _____ despite difficulties. God knows that there are _____ to conflict, suffering, and in being mistreated by others.

James 1:2-4 - Trials test our faith, and when overcome, produce _____. Patience works in our lives to make us _____ and complete.

1 Peter 1:6-9 - Trials _____ the genuineness of our faith and will ultimately bring God honor and glory.

1 Peter 4:12-14 - We should _____ trials and look forward to the future _____ we will have when we see the Lord. Notice that in verse 2 Paul said that he was preaching the _____ of God. As a result of preaching the gospel of God with pure motives, his preaching was _____ in vain.

1 Thess 1:5; Rom 1:15-17 - When the gospel is preached, people are _____!

Walking for God's Approval

1 Thess 2:4-7 - Paul, Timothy and Silas were approved by _____ to be entrusted with the gospel.

Paul was _____ to please God and not men.

Paul had a good conscience in his dealings with the Thessalonians and was content to have God as his _____.

Gal 1:10; 2 Cor 5:1 - Our goal in life is to be well pleasing to God, so when we appear before Christ in judgment, we can be confident that we will receive an _____ home in heaven.

2 Tim 4:1-5 - Paul warned Timothy that some will turn away from sound teaching and will search out teachers that will tell them what _____ want to hear and not what God wants them to hear.

1 Cor 4:2-5 - Paul was consumed with being a faithful _____ for God. He considered it a small thing to be judged by people.

We all face the same dilemma!

Jesus warned in Matthew 6 that _____ Christians face the temptation of engaging in spiritual work, such as giving, praying and fasting, to get the approval of men and not God.

Col 3:22-25 *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.* NKJV

We are not to be men-pleasers, because the Lord is the _____ one who can give us the reward we long for.

Walking considering others

1 Thess 2:7-12 *But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.* NKJV

Paul said they were _____ with the Thessalonians as a _____ mother cherishes her own children.

He was _____ longing for them. This is the only time this word is used in the Bible. It means to long or yearn for someone.

Paul said they not only were willing to teach them the gospel, but they gave them their own _____.

Paul said they were selfless in their dealings with the Thessalonians.

They exhorted, comforted and charged them as a father does his own children.

The word exhort means "to _____ near". The word comfort means "to _____ near". The word charged means "to call God as a _____".

Everything they did among the Thessalonians was aimed at encouraging them to walk worthy of God who called them into His _____ kingdom and glory.

Mark 12:29-34 *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. 33 And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." NKJV*

This section could be summed up this way, "Live the two greatest commandments, even in difficult circumstances."