

INTRODUCTION - Paul sets himself as an example for preachers today.

1. HOW ONE HANDLES THE GOSPEL

- 1) ~~(v3)~~ **"We were bold ... to speak to you the gospel"**
"Bold" - having courage in our God; confident; daring; spirited.
(Eph. 6:19) "Pray for me ... that I may open my mouth boldly ..."
- 2) (v4) **"entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak"**
"Entrusted" - something valuable being placed in the hands of another for proper use.
(1 Cor. 9:16-17) "I have been entrusted with a stewardship"
- 3) (v3-6) **"not"**
"not from error ("guile") - exhortation was not subtle, underhanded, nor cunning.
"not from uncleanness" - in contrast to the immorality of the heathen worship of the day.
"not from deceit" - motives are pure; no intention of misleading; not dishonest.
(v4) **"not as pleasing men"** - not a crowd-pleasing message. (note: Isaiah 30:9-11)
"not using flattering words ... nor a cloak for covetousness" - no false praise for financial gain;
not covering up anything for selfish gain.
"nor did we seek glory from men" - didn't preach to get your praise and applause.
- 4) (v6) **"when we might have made demands as apostles"**
Paul could have asked for financial support from them.
(v9) **"laboring ... that we might not be a burden to you."**
Paul had partial financial support from being a tent-maker: (Acts 18:1-3).
Paul received financial support from other churches: (Phil. 4:15-17).
Today, many congregations cannot afford full financial support for their preacher,
and he may be required to be employed in society.

2. HOW ONE HANDLES PEOPLE

- 1) (v7) **"we were gentle ... as a nursing mother cherishes her own children"**
- 2) (v11) **"as a father does his own children"** - preach with the firmness of a dad.
- 3) (v8) **"affectionately ... pleased to impart to you ... our own lives"** - involvement with them.

3. HOW ONE HANDLES HIMSELF - (v10) "we behaved ourselves among you"

- 1) **"devoutly"** - devotion to God and to the preaching of the gospel.
- 2) **"justly"** - the right fulfillment of duties; in accordance with what is right.
- 3) **"blamelessly"** - no provable charge for misdeeds; a proper example; above reproach.

4. HOW ONE SEES THE GOAL OF HIS MINISTRY

- (v12) **"that you would walk worthy of God ..."**
(Eph. 4:1) **"walk worthy of the calling with which you were called ..."**
(3 John v4) **"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."**

CLOSE: Preachers, follow Paul's lead in preaching the gospel.