

Helping the Baby Grow Up

Introduction: In these verses, Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the kind of ministry he had as he taught and cared for the young church. Two pictures of his ministry emerge.

I) The faithful steward -1 Thessalonians 2:1-6.

- A) Paul had been entrusted with the gospel -1 *Thessalonians 2:4*, *Gal. 1:11-12*.
- B) A steward owns nothing -*Genesis 39:1-6*, *Luke 16:1-2*.
- C) The message of the gospel is a treasure entrusted to us.
- D) Faithfulness is the most important quality God has entrusted to us -1 *Corinthians 4:1-2*,
1 Thessalonians 2:4.
- E) The manner of his ministry -*v 1-2*, *Acts 4:13, 29*, *Philippians 1:30*.
- F) The message of his ministry -1 *Corinthians 15:1-6*, *Galatians 1:6-12*.
- G) The motive of his ministry -*v 3b*, *Philippians 1:14-19*, *1 Thessalonians 2:5*.
- H) The method of his ministry -1 *Thessalonians 2:3c-6*, *1 Thessalonians 1:5*.
- I) Paul's enemies accused him -1 *Thessalonians 2:5*, *Acts 24:16*.
- J) Paul hated flattery -1 *Thessalonians 2:5*, *Psalms 12:2*.
- K) Some people flatter God -*Psalms 78:6*.

II) The loving mother -1 Thessalonians 2:7-8.

- A) It takes time and energy to care for children.
- B) Paul had patience with the new Christians,
- C) Paul also nourished them -1 *Thessalonians 2:7*, *1 Peter 2:1-3*.
- D) A mother protects her child -1 *Kings 3:16-28*.
- E) Not easy to be a nursing mother -*Numbers 11:12*.

Conclusion: What a kind, loving, protecting father and mother Paul was to the newborn Christians. So are we to those who are young in the faith.