

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 29/08/21

Text(s): 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Sermon Title: Motivations for the Gospel

Preacher: Rev Jason Phua

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

For you yourselves know, brothers,[a] that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But 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. 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but 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. 5 For we never came with words of flattery,[b] as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle[c] among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, 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.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

"Paul highlights two events in the experience of the Thessalonians that advanced the gospel: the apostles' trust in the work of the gospel despite his poor treatment in Philippi and his tender care for the Thessalonians despite his 'right' to support as an apostle." Michael Joseph Brown, Preaching This Week, Working Preacher.org, 2014.

- 1. What were the two major concerns for Paul for the Thessalonian Christians?**
- 2. Paul went on to explain that he had only one motive for coming to the Thessalonians and sharing the Gospel with them. That he wanted to please God rather than men. Relate a personal incident in your life when you had to choose between pleasing God or men and the outcome of your decision.**

3. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but 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. 1 Thessalonians 2: 3-4 What is your understanding of the word 'approved'? Do you agree that a desire to please God comes with understanding His will for our lives?

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. Referring to Ps Jason's message, how can we turn away from being a people pleaser but learn more to please God?
 - a) *Be convicted of the foolishness and futility of pleasing people.*
 - b) *Cultivate a word-filled and spirit-filled life.*
 - c) *Love people, out of reverence for God.*
2. When you heard about the life of Elisha Tan, do you see any similarities between his life and that of Apostle Paul?

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See **MyPMC > PRAY** for the monthly guide)

- Praise God for the unconditional love and salvation for mankind. Pray for one another that we hold true to the gospel, and to have the love and compassion of our Lord for the lost. May we continue to reach out to those who live near PMC through planned tracting and visitations.
- Pray for our people to seek a deeper and more intimate relationship with God through prayer, meditation and a deeper study of His word so that they may grow deeper in understanding spiritual truths which will enable them to stand firm in the midst of adversity and the challenges of life. May our lives model after Christ.
- Pray for our government to continue to be strong and stable, to better understand the needs of our society, to make policies that help maintain religious harmony and to enable those who are struggling to cope with more support.