



1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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



Prayer of illumination

Lord our God,

In the reading of the Scripture, **may your Word be heard;**

In the meditations of our hearts, **may your Word be known;**

In the faithfulness of our lives, **may your Word be shown.**

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Two major concerns

- Church might be spiritually weakened as they faced hostile persecution for the faith.
- Thessalonian Christians might misunderstand their motives for preaching the Gospel.



Paul explained that he only has one motive for coming to the Thessalonians and sharing the Gospel with them. **The motive is that he wanted to please God rather than man.**



1 Thessalonians 2:3-4: 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.



- “Approved” is translated from the Greek word “dedokimasmetha”

- Shares the same root word (dokimazo) as “tests” in the very same verse.
- Quite often, Paul used the root word “dokimazo” to urge believers to test and examine what is godly vs what is not.

Paul’s approval from God is **an outcome of being tested by God.**

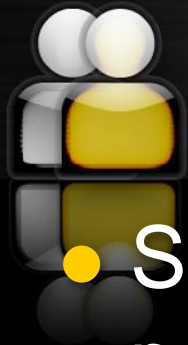


What are our motives?

When we share the Gospel, serve in ministry or just trying to live life; do we seek to please God or people?



A **people pleaser** seeks to please for the sake of getting other people's approval for personal agenda / needs.



- So how can we turn away from being a people pleaser but learn more to please God?
 - Be convicted of the foolishness and futility of pleasing people;
 - Cultivate a word-filled and spirit-filled life;
 - Love people, out of reverence for God.



Mr Elisha Tan



“He dedicated much of his life to the Kingdom’s work, and we had the privilege of capturing a glimpse of this. We celebrate him, and the glittering example he still is, to all of us.”

Story and picture of Elisha Tan is taken from saltandlight.sg