

# 1 Thessalonians 2:5 – 13

English Standard Version

1 <sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know,  
 2 nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we  
 3 seek glory from people, whether from you or from others,  
 4 though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.  
 5 <sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother  
 6 taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately  
 7 desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only  
 8 the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had  
 9 become very dear to us.

10 <sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked  
 11 night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,  
 12 while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are  
 13 witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and  
 14 blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> For you  
 15 know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted  
 16 each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to  
 17 walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his  
 18 own kingdom and glory.

19 <sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you  
 20 received the word of God, which you heard from us, you  
 21 accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is,  
 22 the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

## **Observation (What does it say?):**

*Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?*

- List the words Paul uses to describe his care like a mother:
- List the words Paul uses to describe his care like a father:
- What else does Paul say about the care of the Thessalonians?
- What does Paul say about their reception of that care?
- Other observations?

## **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- Why does Paul use both images, of mother and father?
- How do the images contrast and complement each other?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

## **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How have you experienced care from another as a mother or as a father?
- Are your dealings with others more like a mother or a father?
- How could you grow into the harmony of both images that Paul describes?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**