

## Faithful Witnesses > 1 Thessalonians 2:6-16

**2:9-12** *How Paul and those with him served.* Paul and Co. came to Thessalonica not with their own agenda, nor with a desire to build a following or get rich. Instead, they came to present the Gospel with integrity – and their example was noted (and followed) by the Thessalonians.

**2:13-16** *How the Thessalonians received.* The church in Thessalonica adopted the very patterns of life of faithful believers who had gone before them, even to the extent of not shying away when persecution was the result. Paul sees this as evidence of them genuinely receiving the Gospel.

**Background:** Paul's visit to Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17. The visit starts well, but ends with a riot and social unrest, leading to Paul and Silas quickly moving on. Timothy later went back to check in with the young church and bring their questions back to Paul, which are addressed in this letter.

**The Point:** To faithfully follow Jesus is to seek His approval rather than the world's. This may well lead to hardship and opposition; when it does, know that the Lord sees and that justice will come at the perfect time and manner.

**Head:** Know that Christian faithfulness often brings the world's scorn. Don't be surprised by opposition.

**Heart:** Believe that integrity matters, that your actions as a Christian must flow from following the teachings of Jesus.

**Hands:** Where in your life do you find it hard to follow Jesus? How will you trust the Lord for growth in the year ahead? Who will benefit from seeing faithful integrity in your life?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

---