



## \*Do you know how faith, love, and hope work?

**Chuck Missler:** Faith **looks back** to a crucified Savior, Love **looks up** to a crowned Savior, and Hope **looks on** to a coming Savior.

## \*What level of boldness will get you into trouble?

*\*1 Thessalonians 2:1 (NKJV) For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. 4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*

1. **V:1-2 Fearlessly speaking the Word** of God and the good news of God's Kingdom will cause problems.

**Thessalonica was a free city.** To speak of any kingdom other than Rome was high risk. The question is a bad one, we should be asking what are we doing to bring God glory? **We must be careful to not let the focus be absent of the Word of God.**

2. **V:2-3 God's message** must not have falsehood/duplicity, impurity, or a cultural bias in it. **The gospel always has a radical message** for our world. Its counter-cultural roots are because it's about the Kingdom of God. When you want to tamper with the Word of God to make it more palatable to the listener you've removed an essentially God's influence and place yours.

## \*A message that is focused on the Kingdom of God and relationships.

*\*1 Thessalonians 2: 5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*

1. **V:5-6 Radical Christian message** is always centered around God and His Kingdom. **The most dangerous Christian is one who gives partial truth. Half-truths will deceive everyone who listens.**

2. **V:7-10 Radical Christianity never means nonrelational.** Paul used the gentleness of the Holy Spirit, like a nursing mother who cherishes her children! Our behavior is our testimony! The bond we have with those who are receiving the gospel has multi-level relationships.

3. **V:11-12 Relationally balanced Christians.** Understand the power of a father's influence. A good father who is telling us to walk worthy of God who is calling us into His Kingdom. **Exhortation and charging others to step up are part of this new deep-seated allegiance.** If you don't have a mixture of nurturing and exhortation the worthiness of your walk before God will come into question.

**\*The work of truth and making Jesus Lord of your life go hand-in-hand.**

*1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, 15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, 16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. 17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. 18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. 19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.*

1. **V:13-15 Truth will get you killed.** Even if you are nurturing like a mother and encouraging like a father, some will hate you because they hate the truth of God's Word.

**They killed Jesus, and the prophets persecute Paul too. Don't be deceived that speaking the Word of God doesn't have enemies in this world and the spiritual world.**

2. **V:16-18 Many today are forbidding us to speak to sinners,** especially, if they chose to believe the cultural lies of their sexuality.

**We don't speak to our culture to condemn them. We challenge them to even more radical allegiance than the world they have accepted.**

3. **V:19-20 (NIV) \*1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

**All that we do has the endgame in mind, Jesus' coming back. We become radical or have a go-for-it attitude because we know there is a possibility of Jesus returning at any time. Again, to a newly established Church and believers, Paul is telling them about Jesus' return.**