



Study Guide

Lesson 3

“How To Nurture The Church”

Chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians introduced us to Paul the evangelist. This chapter introduces us to Paul the shepherd, for it explains how the great apostle cared for the new believers in the churches that he founded. Paul considered “the care of all the churches” (2 Cor. 11:28) a greater burden than all the sufferings and difficulties he experienced in his ministry (2 Cor. 11:23ff).

Just as God uses people to bring the Gospel to the lost, so He uses people to nurture the babes in Christ and help lead them to maturity. The church at Thessalonica was born through the faithful *preaching* of the apostle and his helpers, and the church was nurtured through the faithful *shepherding* that Paul and his friends gave to the infant church. This helped them stand strong in the midst of persecution.

In these verses, Paul reminded them of the kind of ministry he had as he taught and cared for the young church. Three pictures of his ministry emerge.

The Faithful Steward

2:1-6

1. The Manner of his Ministry 2:1-2
2. The Message of his Ministry 2:3a
3. The Motive of his Ministry 2:3b
4. The Method of his Ministry 2:3c-6

The Loving Mother

2:7-8

1. The emphasis of the steward is _____; the emphasis of the mother is _____. 2:7
2. He _____ for their needs. 2:7
3. He _____ them with spiritual food. 2:8
4. He _____ whatever necessary so they could grow. 2:9

The Concerned Father

2:9-12

1. Read 1 Corinthians 4:15. Paul saw his converts as his _____ and he as their _____.
2. Paul points out three duties that a spiritual father must fulfill in the lives of his converts:
 - A. His Work. Paul made tents so he could not be accused of _____. He uses two words to describe his work in 2:9. What are they? _____ and _____.
 - B. His Walk. What three words did Paul use to describe his walk? (2:10) (1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____
 - C. His Words. Paul points to four ways he spoke to his children. (2:11-12) (1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____, (4) _____