

GAME CHANGER

A Walk Through the Book of 1 Thessalonians

Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

The Marks of an Encourager

"However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8b

A Game Changer is an Encourager.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

1 Thessalonians 2:6-16

The Marks of an Effective Encourager:

1. Caring

*...but we were gentle among you, like a mother **caring** for her little children.*

1 Thessalonians 2:7

"caring" = Greek *"thalpos"* = term used of birds covering their young with their feathers

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God...

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

[God] comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

1 Thessalonians 2:9

Always be on the look-out and catch people doing things well.

2. Righteous

*You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and **blameless** we were among you who believed.*

1 Thessalonians 2:10

"blameless" = Greek "amemptos" = "unable to bring a charge against you"

Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

3. Expressive

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

...we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children...

1 Thessalonians 2:11

Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

Proverbs 27:6 NLT

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is...the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe. For you brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea...

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14