

Approved By God



Living Unto the Lord's Return
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

The Standard for Approval: Perfection

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:20)



The Standard for Approval: Perfection

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him, [Jesus Christ], we might become the righteousness of God.

(1 Corinthians 5:20-21)



Living Approved by God

But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

(1 Thessalonians 2:4)

- **How do we handle the gospel?**



Paul's Evidence of Approval

- Preaching the gospel in the midst of opposition (v. 1-2)
- Presenting the gospel in purity of heart (v. 3, 5-6)
- Living the gospel while preaching the gospel (v. 9-10)
- Loving the Thessalonians like a parent (v. 7-8, 11-12)



Like a Mother & Like a Father

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. (v. 7-8)

For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worth of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. (v 11-12)



Approved by God & Living for the Lord's Return

Walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

(1 Thessalonians 2:12)

But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

(1 Thessalonians 2:4)

