



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2

Title: "Why I serve"

Author

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Summary of Chapter

Apostle Paul shared how gentle he was towards the Thessalonians, like a parent. Paul highlighted their holy and righteous conduct and challenged them to walk in a manner worthy of God and that they are Pauls' glory and joy.

Key Verse(s) NLT

How does it speak to me?

"7 As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. 8 We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too. 9 Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you."

Apostle Paul laboured hard for the advancement of gospel to the Thessalonians. He also earned his own income so as not to be a burden to them. Basically, Paul was willing to spend himself for the church because of his love for the believers and that they are his proud reward before God.

I am a lay person currently serving in various ministry roles. Some in the public view and some behind the scenes. Perhaps one may ask, why did I bother to labour so much to spend myself to serve. There are no monetary rewards and it is not my profession. Instead, it cost me time and energy and money at times.

I am doing all these, first and foremost, due to the Love of God that I had experienced. Thus I desire to serve Him and advance His kingdom. Second, it was the love for the church. COVID 19 had further impressed upon me on how precious the church was to me. After the initial crisis phase, when ministries restarted, I availed myself to serve again. It was not easy as I had to concurrently adjust to the changes at work, family and other aspects of life during this pandemic. And there were new things I needed to learn such as how to run a cell online. Even serving in this new area of sharing online daily devotions is a new venture. While it had not been easy, I found them purposeful. Doing them does not make God love me more, but the love of God and His people always inspire me to serve. Each time I see people ministered, is always fulfilling; and that is my reward. That's why I serve. That's why I do all these even when there's no monetary reward, and even though it requires sacrifices and can be laborious.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:

For those who have yet to serve in a ministry, will you pray and ask God to understand why you could not yet serve Him? For those serving, will you ask God to rekindle the purpose or spur you to continue to serve Him.

Youth:

As you seek the profession of your life, will you allow God to speak to you whether should you serve Him full time or in a lay capacity to build His kingdom?

Child:

Speak to a Children's church teacher today and find out how you can serve at Grace Kids!

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:

Dear God, we ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us areas of ministry that we should serve in. Help us to be inspired to serve out of our love for You and Your love for us. For those that have been laboring for You and feel worn out, may You refresh them, and refire us once more to labor for Your Kingdom; till Your return.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer:

I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer:

I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen