

Knowing God's Approval

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. Romans 14:21

for they loved praise from men more than praise from God. John 12:43

God's approval is more important than any person's approval.

**Paul's experience can give us _____
for our Christian commitment.**

1. The resistance to Paul
2. Paul's response
3. Paul's reasoning

Incentives for our Christian Commitment

1. People _____ Paul where ever he went.

*You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. 1 Thessalonians 2:1
—Acts 17*

We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.

1 Thessalonians 2:2

***When God's family _____ ,
it's more painful than the persecution of the world.***

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:75

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.
Proverbs 13:20*

2. Paul's response was _____ .

Incentives for our Christian Commitment

For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 1 Thessalonians 2:3

Four characteristics of Paul's response

1. His manner was c_____

2. His message was t_____

For we speak as messengers from God, trusted by him to tell the truth; we change his message not one bit to suit the taste of those who hear it; for we serve God alone, who examines our hearts' deepest thoughts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (Living Bible)

3. His motive was p_____

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

You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 1 Thessalonians 2:5

4. His methods were honest

***You might persuade some through pressure—
but the response will not come from the heart,
through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.***

***Speak the truth in love and rely on
the power the gospel, not gimmicks.***

but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. 1 Thessalonians 2:7

3. Paul's reasoning was to please _____ , not man.

Incentives for our Christian Commitment

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.

1 Thessalonians 2:6

Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.

Proverbs 25:26

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. James 1:8

***When you courageously stand for the truth,
you develop a self-esteem that comes from God, not from other people.***

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Mark 8:34

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:35

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me 1 Corinthians 4:3-4

we speak as men approved by God 1 Thessalonians 2:4

How to know God is approving you.

1. Have the right _____ of God, as your Father.

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11

2. Know and rightly handle God's Word.

How to know God is approving you.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

3. See the _____ of the Spirit in your life.

How to know God is approving you.

*And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God
Colossians 1:10*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

4. Note the disapproval of God's _____.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12

5. The encouragement from God's _____.

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

6. The inner voice of the _____.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:16

***When you Seek to please Him, you are encouraged by His will,
by His people and by His Spirit within.***

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

Key: incentives, resisted, criticizes, faithfulness, courageous, true, pure, God, view, fruit, enemies, people, Holy Spirit