

Paul's letters to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

NSP School of Life and Doctrine

Spring Session 2010

Week 2

Acts 17:1-13

The letter as a whole

How the gospel came (1:4-5)

Turning, Serving, Waiting (1:9-10)

Paul's Self-Defense (2:1-10)

Pop-Culture Gospel Barriers

Paul's Exhortation (2:11-12)

“You're so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good.”

OR

“You must be heavenly minded to be *any* earthly good.”

Paul's Security (2:13-20)

Spurgeon's caged lion



Remains of a Roman Arch at Thessalonica



Small Group Discussion:

1. Paul's self-defense was necessary because of the barrier created by other travelling philosophers. What were the 6 or 7 charges against which he defends his appeal for the gospel?
2. Why was Paul's self-defense important for the life of this young church?
3. What are some barriers in the popular culture that hinder your own proclamation of the gospel? How can you overcome them?
4. In Paul's exhortation (v.11-12), how does a clear view of God's "kingdom and glory" lead one to "walk in a manner worthy of God"?
5. It is possible for a Christian to be so heavenly minded that he's no earthly good. What does this look like? Give examples. Have you ever been this way? Why?
6. Paul's security – even knowing that the Thessalonians are being persecuted in some way – is that God's word is "at work in you believers." How can you know that the Word is "at work" in someone? How can you know it is at work in you? How is this "work" of the Word a security for the church?