

VISION 2023: Returning to the Essentials – Part 3

1 THESS 2:1-6

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #Vision 2023

Week 1: Return to the Essential Virtues (1:1-3).

1. Aggressively Grow a Faith that Functions (3a).
2. Strategically Give a Love that Labors (3b).
3. Consistently Gather a Hope that Hangs-On (3c).

Week 2: Return to the Essential Values (1:4-10).

1. Value Exemplary Reception (4-7, 9).
2. Value Evangelistic Redirection (8-9).
3. Value Expectant Return (9-10).

Week 3: Return to the Essential Vocation (2:1-6).

1. Minister with Fighting Devotion (1-2).
2. Minister with Friendly Doctrine (1, 3-4).
3. Minister with Focused Delight (4b-6).

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

"For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.

³For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,

^{4b}so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ."

(ESV)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. This passage and others like Titus 1 highlight the importance of biblical shepherds. How is a passage about biblical ministers of the gospel applicable to everyone in the church? How did today's sermon challenge you?
2. Why do we struggle with pleasing people? What sound principles does this passage provide for those who want to please God and not a man? If your confidence is in the power of the gospel, what should your response be when persecution comes?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:9.** What is the goal of life? Can you describe some situations where you have had to accomplish this goal at the expense of personal goals?

Quote for the Week. . .

by R. Kent Hughes

"God is not looking for gifted people or people who are self-sufficient. He is looking for inadequate people who will give their weakness to Him and open themselves to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the transforming grace of the new covenant as it is ministered by Christ Jesus Himself."

R. Kent Hughes, *Sufficient for Ministry* by Kent Hughes taken from *2 Corinthians* by Kent Hughes, Crossway Books, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton Illinois 60187, p. 74.

