Effectively Representing the Gospel
1 Thess. 2:1-12

Introduction:
A. Paul reviews his conduct and influence among the Thessalonians.
   1. He had been there as a representative of the “gospel of God” (vv. 2, 8, 9)
   2. He understood the role his conduct and demeanor had on his effectiveness.
   3. He concludes that he had been effective – “it was not in vain.”
B. Paul’s review of his conduct and influences should serve as example for all Christians.
   1. Each Christians goes about daily as representative of the gospel.
   2. Each Christian is either effective or ineffective in his/her representation.
   3. To be effective, each Christians should embrace three traits of Paul’s demeanor at Thessalonica.

Discussion:
I. Confidence (“bold in our God” - v. 2)
   A. Caused him to speak “in much conflict” (v. 2).
      1. In spite of past treatment at Philippi (cf. Acts 16)
      2. In spite of present treatment a Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-11)
   B. Caused him to speak without “deceit or guile” (v. 3)
      1. False religion has to resort to such to cover its real ugly nature (cf. 2 Pet. 2:18-19)
      2. Christians have enough confidence tell all – pleasant or unpleasant (Acts 20:20, 25; Lk 9:57)
   C. Caused him to look to God for approval, not man (v. 4,5)
      1. Christians have no need of flattery to court man’s approval (v. 5; cf. Gal. 4:17-18)
      2. Christians have no need for flattery as a cloak of covetousness (cf. Mt. 6:33)

II. Compassion (“gentle among you”- v. 7)
   A. Gentle as a mother nursing her children (v. 7 nkj)
      1. Willing to die for their good (v. 8)
      2. Willing to labor night and day to spare them (v. 9)
      3. Willing to patiently teach them (cf. Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:24-28)
   B. Gentle as a good father to his own children (v. 11, cf. Eph. 6:4)
      1. Willing to exhort when needed.
      2. Willing to comfort when needed.
      3. Willing to charge when needed (cf 1 Thess. 5:14)

III. Cleanliness (vv. 3, 10)
   A. Clean in every respect: Morality, motivation and manners.
   B. Paul’s clean living was an open book before them – they were witnesses of it.
      1. His holiness or devoutness – His treatment of God,
      2. His just behavior – His treatment of others.

Conclusion
A. If we so represent the gospel among our friends and neighbors – our going to them will not be vain.
   1. We can afford to be both bold and gentle at the same time.
   2. We will persuade some to “walk worthy of God” (v. 12) - but not all (Acts 17:4-5, 11)
B. We can be good representatives of the gospel only after we have obeyed it and begin to live it.