**1 Thessalonians 2**

**Colossians**

**Titus**

**Timothy**

**Thessalonians**

**Philippians**

**Ephesians**

**Galatians**

**Corinthians**

**Romans**

**Philemon**

**Hebrews**

**James**

**Jude**

**John**

**Peter**

**Intro:** When is it that people talk about themselves the most?

**Chapter 2:1-12 Faith of the pastor**

1. Paul, Silas, and Timothy faced tough opposition in this area of the world yet “with the help of our God” they spoke in spite of opposition. What does this lead us to confess about ourselves? In what ways does this lead us to rejoice?
2. Read verses 3-4. In what ways can understanding the work of a pastor as a ‘sacred trust’ bring benefit to the work of a pastor? (ref. 1 Cor 4:1-4)(2 thoughts)
3. In verse 7 Paul describes a faithful pastor as a mother (lit. nursing mother). In what ways is a mother a good description of faithful pastor?
4. Read verses 8-9. Paul was the most influential of the apostles in the New Testament, yet Paul wants to make sure people don’t get a false view of ministry. Of what does he remind us in these verses?
5. Paul uses the first 12 verses to talk about himself and verse 10 he makes a bold claim. Is Paul just tooting his own horn? (Explain)

**Chapter 2:13-20 Facing Persecution**

1. Read verse 13. The news that the Thessalonians accepted Paul’s words as the “word of God” brought him great comfort. What benefits result when both pastor and congregation understand that God’s Word is being taught in their congregation? What problems arise when this is not understood? (2 thoughts each)
2. Read verses 14-16. In their hatred, the Jews went so far as to “defend” the “inferior” Gentiles from Christianity. What is the advice Paul gives? In what ways can our congregation benefit from such advice?
3. Read verses 17-18. Notice Paul’s longing to see the Thessalonians. He has genuine concern for their faith. Where does he direct their thoughts to joy? How can this be a good way of viewing our life?
4. Agree/Disagree- Can Satan stop us?

***Takin’ it Home***

1. Both Paul and his companions and the Thessalonians were facing tough persecution. What lessons can you use when you face tough times in your life?