

## "The Strength of the Ox"

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Proverbs 14:4

The strength of our church's ministries come from the labor of the faithful volunteers that serve the Lord by serving our congregation.

### Proverbs 14:4

Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.

### 1 Thessalonians

- A Little Background
- Reasons for writing:
  1. Encourage to persevere
  2. Defend his ministry
  3. Correct misconceptions
  4. Remind of basic instruction

### Our Volunteers have come...

1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our **coming to you was not in vain**, 2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. 3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

- With Initiative

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- Boldly

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- Sincerely

4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, **not as pleasing men**, but God who examines our hearts. 5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness— 6 **nor did we seek glory from men**, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

- Serving

7 But we proved to be **gentle among you**, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

- Carefully (full of care)

### **Our Volunteers have come...**

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also **our own lives**, because you had become very dear to us.

- Wholly

9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as **not to be a burden** to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

- Sacrificially

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we **behaved toward you believers**; 11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

- Uprightly

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were **exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you** as a father would his own children,

- Challenging

12 so that you would **walk in a manner worthy of the God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

- Calling