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**Follow the Leader: Part 2**

***1 Thessalonians 2:9-12***

One of the difficulties of preaching through a book is that material often overlaps. What Paul said in one letter is stretched out over multiple weeks. But while that might seem boring to us, it’s important that we take the time to examine themes that come up repeatedly in Paul’s letters. God is trying to teach us something important in this letter about evangelism and discipleship, and we had better pay close attention! This week we will see that God wants us to…

**Follow godly examples and be a godly example.**

So what does a godly example look like?

1. **Godly examples work hard for Christ (v 9).**
2. **Godly examples are diligent workers.**

Paul was careful in his work not to be a burden to certain churches by working very hard at a trade (1 Cor 9:7-18; 2 Cor 11:7-10; Acts 18:1-5). Believers should likewise be hard workers (2 Thes 3:8).

1. **Godly examples are focused workers.**

The only thing more tragic that not being successful is being successful at something that doesn’t last eternally. Paul worked hard so that he could then go serve God.

1. **Godly examples live pure lives.**
2. **Godly examples obey God’s laws.**

The word for “holy” here is a different word in the Greek than we normally see. Rather than emphasizing that we are “set apart” to God, it more has the idea of fulfilling our duties and obligations to God (pious).

1. **Godly examples obey man’s laws.**

Paul was accused of being an insurrectionist(Acts 17:6-7), but Paul and the Thessalonian church knew better.

1. **Godly examples care deeply about others.**
2. **Godly examples show empathy.**

All of what we have seen might give the impression that Paul didn’t really care about people much, but nothing could be further from the truth.

1. **Godly examples provide encouragement.**

While we might be concerned about giving someone too big a head or giving glory to man that belongs to God, we should seek to encourage others in their faith when appropriate.

1. **Godly examples push excellence.**

We should encourage each other to live worthily as citizens of the kingdom and children of God tasked with spreading his glory to the nations.