

May 13, 2012

Pastor Andy McClellan

Proverbs 31:30

(30) Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:15-22 (ESV)

- (15) "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),
- (16) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
- (17) Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,
- (18) and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.
- (19) And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!
- (20) Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.
- (21) For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.
- (22) And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Sermon Text:

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (ESV)

- (1) For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.
- (2) But 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.
- (3) For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,
- (4) but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.
- (5) For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed--God is witness.
- (6) Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.
- (7) But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.
- (8) So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

“Wait ‘til your Father gets home”

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

In light of the Second Coming....

- A. Share the GOSPEL as Entrusted by the FATHER (vv. 1-4)
- B. Share Your LIFE as Exemplified by a MOM (vv. 7-8)

Three GODLY Characteristics of a Mother (cf. Gen. 1:27; Isaiah 66:12-13; Isaiah 42:14; Isaiah 49:14-15; Matthew 23:37)

1. GENTLE rather than DEMANDING (vv. 6-7; cf. Matthew 11:29)
2. CARING FOR rather than TAKING FROM (v. 5, 7; cf. Ephesians 5:29)
3. AFFECTIONATELY DESIROUS rather than GLORY-DRIVEN (vv. 5-6, 8; cf. Matthew 3:17; Romans 1:7)

For Further Thought and Discussion

1. Read the Scriptures given as cross-references (“cf.”) above. Even though God is our Father, in what ways does He reveal Himself with characteristics of a mother? Make a list.
2. Paul explains that he shared his life with the Thessalonians like a mother shares her life with her child. In what ways were the Thessalonians like spiritual children to him?
3. How can you be like Paul in how you share your life with those who are young or young in their faith within your own family? Within the church family?