

## Study Guide

### Steadfast 2:1-12

#### Steadfast in Witness

**Big Idea:** What I say and do matters.

1. Read 1 Thess. 2:1. Paul probably thought initially that the effort at Thessalonica was in vain. It wasn't until later that he realized how fruitful it had been (the gospel later spread from there "everywhere"). Do you ever feel like what you say or do to be a witness doesn't really matter? Why or why not? What can make us more effective?

2. Watch this short video and discuss what can keep us from being an effective witness:

**Video:** <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/100391>

3. In this chapter, Paul illustrates a correlation between an effective witness and our attitude. Be bold, be gentle, and be blameless. Discuss:

a. Bold (v.2-6)

- How could Paul and Silas easily have quit trusting God at Philippi?
- What were they now trusting in?
- How was their appeal based in truth? How does that make us bold?
- How was their appeal based in love? How can that make us confident?

b. Gentle (v. 7-9)

- What words does Paul use to illustrate how gentle they were?
- How did their behavior give them more credibility?

c. Blameless (v.10-12)

- How does being "blameless" make us more effective? (see also Prov. 28:1).
- What is the difference between being blameless and sinless?
- What does it mean to "walk worthy of God"? How can that attitude make us effective?

**Conclusion:** What we do and say matters!

How can we be more attentive to our thoughts when it comes to being effective as a witness?

What may God be telling us through this passage?

## Message Slides

### Steadfast

**Video:** <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/100391>

#### Introduction (v.1)

“For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was **not in vain**.”

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#### A. Bold (v.2-6)

“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. †For our appeal does **not spring from error** or impurity or any attempt to deceive, †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. †For we **never came with words of flattery**, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. †Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.”

>each on mouse click<

1. Appeal was bold
2. Appeal was true
3. Appeal was loving

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#### B. Gentle (v. 7-9)

“But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. †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. †For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”

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#### C. Blameless (v.10-12)

“You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and **blameless** was our conduct toward you believers. †For you know how, like a father with his children, †we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a **manner worthy** of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”

1. Blameless is not sinless

>on mouse click<

2. Worthiness is not perfection

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