

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT-3

“Turning Human Failure Into Heavenly Favor”

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

Introduction _____

I. FIRST, NOTE THAT FAILURE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE _____ (1 Thessalonians 2:1).

II. SECONDLY, CONSIDER HOW FAILURE CAN BECOME _____ FOR SUCCESS (1 Thessalonians 2:2-6).

A. **Fertilizer #1**—we can please the Lord when we _____ His glory and not our own (2:4). *“But, as we were allowed of God to put in trust with the gospel, even as we speak, not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”*

B. **Fertilizer #2**—we please the Lord when we _____ trials with steadfast joy (2:2) *“But even after we had suffered before, and we shamefully treated at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with such contention.”*

C. **Fertilizer #3**—we please the Lord by _____ sound doctrine (2:3). *“For our exhortation was not of deceit nor of uncleanness, nor in guile.”*

D. **Fertilizer #4**—we please the Lord when we _____ moral integrity (2:3). *“... not in deceit”*

E. **Fertilizer #5**—we please the Lord when we are _____ with integrity (2:5). *“For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, not a cloke of covetousness; God is witness.”*

1. First, his explanation had to do with the _____ appearance (2:5a). *“flattering words . . .”*

2. Secondly, his explanation had to do with the _____ attitude (2:5b). *“... nor a cloke of covetousness . . .”*

F. **Fertilizer #6**—we please the Lord when we _____ and avoid ALL deception and manipulation (2:3). *“... nor in deceit . . .”*

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 1. DISCUSS: DOES THE GREAT COMMISSION (winning souls) apply to ALL Christians or only those specially gifted to do it?**
- 2. Why is important to get the gospel right? How is Satan attacking the gospel in our day?**
- 3. How can a person who is inclined to be a people-pleaser become a God-pleaser? What steps does he or she need to make?**
- 4. What can you do to help this church move toward a culture of soul winning? What would you need to change to do this?**