

## Word Notes Sunday 16/02/14

### Tony Hodge: The Real Deal

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

**Key Text: 1 Thes 2:1-16**

Paul describes how they came to Thessalonica to preach the Gospel:

- It was after difficult times in Philippi with much opposition.
- They continued even in the face of opposition
- Acts 17 tells us they preached Jesus is the Christ, and why he had to suffer, die and rise from the dead.
- They had pure motives
- They saw themselves as approved by God, entrusted with the Gospel
- They were not looking for men's praise
- They were hardworking
- **They produced imitators** – disciples.

And we want to do the same – not just apostles but each of us in our own place. It may feel unfashionable, unpopular not PC, people may reject it but if we truly believe and put our faith in Jesus then the Gospel is the real deal.

Some may say that the current times are not much different to 1st Century Macedonia – that there is opposition to the gospel, that people are arrested for preaching it because either the police don't understand the law properly or some third party is worried that another person "might be offended". This does happen but lets be clear – it's not illegal to preach the gospel in the UK. What is unlawful is to incite hatred. However that does not mean public preaching is without risk.

Because we know Jesus, because we believe that God is not dead, because we've had this same revelation that the Thessalonians had we too want to share the Truth of the Jesus and the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What inhibits you from sharing the Gospel – and what encourages you?

Are your motives "pure" (1 Thes 2:3)

Read Matthew 6:19-21.

1. If you were to do a quick review of your life what rough percentage of your time is spent building up treasure in heaven compared to building on earth?
2. How do you distinguish between the two?
3. Do you feel you should make a change in that ratio, if so what might you do, how different would you approach life?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)