

## **Being An Effective Church**

**1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 (NLT)** — **(1)** You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. **(2)** You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition. **(3)** So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery. **(4)** For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. **(5)** Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! **(6)** As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else. **(7)** As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. **(8)** We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.

### **I) An Effective Church Is Built On A Godly Message.**

**2 Timothy 3:1–9 (NLT)** — **(1)** You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. **(2)** For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. **(3)** They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. **(4)** They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. **(5)** They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! **(6)** They are the kind who work their way into people’s homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. **(7)** (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.) **(8)** These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. **(9)** But they won’t get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres.

### **II) An Effective Church Is built On A Godly Manner.**

### **III) An Effective Church Has A Godly Motive.**