

A high-speed photograph of a single water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is captured mid-fall, just above the point of impact, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards. The water is a deep blue color, and the lighting highlights the droplet's surface and the ripples' edges.

Self-Defense for Ministers

1 Thess. 2:1-12

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Paul's Defense

1. We Had The Right Perspective (1-2)
2. We Had The Right Motives (3-4)
3. We Had The Right Conduct (5-12)

1. The Right Perspective (1-2)

- Difficulties in Philippi (see Acts 16)
 - *Suffered* – beaten with rods, struck with many blows, thrown in prison
 - *Mistreated* – robes torn off, beaten without trial, locked in stocks

1. The Right Perspective (1-2)

- Difficulties in Thess. (see Acts 17)
 - Much opposition* — Jews formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, stirred up the crowd

1. The Right Perspective (1-2)

- Difficulties didn't dissuade
 - Boldness in our God – in spite of / in the face of opposition
 - The gospel of God – Paul recognized his stewardship (1 Cor. 9:14-18) and God's sovereignty (Acts 14:19-23)

1. The Right Perspective (1-2)

- 2 Corinthians 4-5
 - “always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” (10)

2. The Right Motive (3-4)

- Three charges?
 - Error – (doctrine) delusion / deceit
 - Impurity – sensual selfishness
 - 2 Pet. 2:18; Jude 4; Rev. 2:20
 - By way of deceit – *bait; trickery; guile; manipulation*

2. The Right Motive (3-4)

- His response
 - Approved by God – *tested and found fit, adequate, acceptable*
 - Entrusted by God – God's choice, not Paul's; *stewardship* (1 Cor. 9:17)

2. The Right Motive (3-4)

- His response
 - Pleasing God – *serving satisfactorily; behaving properly towards*
 - Paul's ambition – 2 Cor. 5:9
 - Related to *walking* – 4:1; Col. 1:10
 - Instruction, knowledge, wisdom

2. The Right Motive (3-4)

- His response
 - Pleasing God
 - God examines our hearts (Ps. 17:3; Prov. 17:3; Jer. 17:10; Acts 1:24)
 - Heart*: feelings/emotions/mind/
will/understanding

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Rejecting false charges (5-6)
 - *Flattery*: manipulation
 - *Greed*: personal enrichment
 - *Glory*: commendation; esteem
- *God is witness* – He knows and rewards true motives (Rom. 2:5-11)

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - *Gentle among you*: tender and involved, not harsh and aloof
 - *Tenderly cares: to warm* (i.e. – a hen covering her chicks)

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - *Affection: longing, yearning*
 - *Impart our own souls*: sharing of the whole person; life-on-life ministry
 - *Very dear*: all out of love

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - Work ethic: labor & hardship, night & day, not to be a burden (9)
 - They weren't in it for the money!
 - 1 Tim. 6:3-11 (re: ministers)

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - Living examples (10)
 - *Devoutly: piously* -inner disposition
 - *Righteously: rightly* -moral conduct
 - *Blamelessly: above reproach*
 - You and God are witnesses

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - Ministry endeavor (11)
 - *Exhorting: call to action; warn*
 - *Encouraging: comfort; console*
 - *Imploring: insist; charge; adjure*
 - As a father would his own children

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - The end or goal (12)
 - Better: *exhorting you and encouraging and imploring for you to walk worthily* (i.e. - not just “you should” but “here’s how”)

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - The end or goal (12)
 - *Walk*: conduct in daily life
 - See 4:1-2; Col. 1:9-12
 - *Worthy*: *befitting; equal to*

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - The end or goal (12)
 - Better: *to walk worthily of the God who is calling you into His own kingdom and glory*

3. The Right Conduct (5-12)

- Recalling true conduct (7-12)
 - The end or goal (12)
 - God is calling you
 - You now worship / serve a living and true God (1:9), so act like it

The Apostle Paul

- Personal goal: to please God
- Ministry goal: for others to walk worthy of God / to please God
 - Exhorting, encouraging, imploring
- In spite of opposition / affliction

So What?

- Preach the gospel (1-3)
- Live the gospel (4-10)
- Encourage others to preach and live the gospel (11-12)

So What?

- God values character (like His)
 - Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-4
- God values right motives
 - 1 Thess. 4:1; Matt. 22:36-40
- God values community (*koinonia*)
 - Joh 14:18-24; Acts 2:42; Heb. 13:16