**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. January 22, 2017**

**A Ministry Worth Emulating**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

**Key Truth:** As Christians we have a ministry to fulfill. How we live that out in the culture is crucial to the advancement of the gospel.

**The Woes of Paul’s Ministry:**

1. Being misunderstood.

2. Having his motives questioned.

3. Having his life under the microscope .

4. Being on the frontline of Satan’s attacks.

 a. Physical – ACTS 14:19-25

 b. Verbal – 2 Corinthians 10:10

**The Rewards of Paul’s Ministry:**

1. He was approved by God.

2. He was entrusted with the Gospel.

3. He had an undeniable spiritual impact on the lives of

 others.

**The Motive for Paul’s Ministry:**

1. Was to please God.

2. Was his love for people.

**Two Lessons To Take Home:**

 1. As disciples of Jesus we are called into the ministry

 of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:16-20

2. The true test of our ministry is whether we walk

 in integrity of character and love the people we

 serve.

**Conclusion**: Let love be the motivating factor in your ministry.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Getting to know you:** When you hear the word “Ministry” what comes to mind?

**Read: ACTS 6:4, 2 Cor. 5:18, 2 Tim. 4:5**: Do you believe every Christian is called into the ministry? Why or why not? What is the difference between vocational and lay ministry?

**Read 2 Peter 2:3:** What motivated the false prophets? What was different about the Apostle’s Paul ministry in 1 Thessalonians 2:5?

**Read Ephesians 4:1-3:** There is a practical outworking of our faith. Paul encourages Christians to walk worthy of our calling. Why is that important?

**Read 1 Peter 5:1-5:** The Apostle Peter encourages and instructs Elders to carry out and conduct themselves in caring for God’s people. Why is it important that leaders set an example for God’s people? How can bad leadership be detrimental to the cause of Christ?

**Read 3 John vs. 9-12**: What was the contrast between Diotrephes and Demetrius ministry?