



November 9, 2025
Worship Service
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1 Thessalonians: Holiness & Hope in a Hostile World

Lesson Eight • 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20
Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind

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Paul's CONCERN for the Thessalonian Church was never out of his mind, even though they were out of his sight.

Paul was concerned that his absence left them vulnerable to the enemy and that they would fall away from the faith rather than stand fast in the Lord.

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. . . . For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.
1 Thessalonians 3:1-3, 5

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith . . . for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

How Concerned Are We? How Much Do We Care?

Like Paul, may we be lovingly devoted to the SPIRITUAL wellbeing of our brothers and sisters in Christ at LifeBridge.

Paul's Concern for the Thessalonian Church

1. Paul's Great Desire: To SEE the Thessalonian Believers Face to Face Again!

Paul's Great Desire

- Paul's SEPARATION from the Thessalonian believers made him feel torn away from them (v. 17).
- Paul's AFFECTION for the Thessalonian believers made him eager to see them face to face (v. 17).

2. Paul's Spiritual Enemy: SATAN Hindered Him from Coming to the Thessalonian Believers!

Paul's Spiritual Enemy

- Satan's opposition is POWERFUL: "but Satan *hindered* us" (v. 18).
- Satan's opposition is PERSONAL: "but Satan hindered *us*" (v. 18).

3. Paul's Future Anticipation: The Thessalonian Believers Are His GLORY and JOY at Christ's Coming!

Paul's Future Anticipation

- Paul's rhetorical QUESTION: "What is our hope and joy and crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming"? (v. 19)
- Paul's surprising ANSWER: "Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy." (v. 19-20)

Takeaway

Invest your life in the only two things that will last forever:
GOD'S WORD and PEOPLE.

Everything else will be destroyed or disappear.