

## WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

### The I Thessalonians Series #5

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**TEXT:** I Thessalonians 2:19-20

**CONSIDER THIS:** If you heard someone who claims to be a Christian say these words to other people: “You are my hope, my joy and the crown that I glory in, you really are my glory and my joy”, would you not immediately think how terrible it is to say words to people that should only be said to God? It seems blasphemous to say of another human being, a fellow-sinner and creature, “You are my glory”. Those words were truly spoken, and do you know who said them? Paul, to the Thessalonian Christians! Not only are these words not blasphemous, they have much to teach us about **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**. As a matter of fact, I hope every Christian in Grace Community Church starts saying these words, sincerely, to one another.

**REVIEW:** Paul’s brief time in Thessalonica (described in Acts 17:1-10) resulted in many people coming to faith in Jesus Christ, the birth of a new church, and intense persecution from those opposed to the gospel and to Paul. Approximately 6 months after having been forced out of the city by his opponents, Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians to encourage them, instruct them, and to defend himself from the lies told to the church that Paul had abandoned them and did not care about them. In 2:1 – 3:13 we read Paul’s defense written to reassure his friends of his love for them, but we also learn much about how we should seek to live every day.

### I WHEN WILL PAUL GLORY IN THEM?

A) Before we look at the meaning of Paul’s words in 2:19-20, we need to recognize the factor of **time**, for this is a central concern in I Thessalonians.

B) The **WHEN** is when the Lord Jesus Christ returns for His bride, the church.

1. John 14:2-3

2. Ephesians 5:25

3. II Corinthians 11:2

4. I Thessalonians 3:13

C) “... in the presence of the Lord **at His coming** (2:19) ... in the presence of our God and Father **when** our Lord Jesus **comes**.” (3:13). The Greek word “**parousia**” which we translate coming/comes, literally means *presence*. Beloved the time is approaching when Jesus will return to take His bride (the church), into His presence.

Paul's greatest passion in life was to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ and then build into their lives so that they would love and follow Jesus ... all in anticipation of that glorious moment when they would meet the Lord.

- D) Another **WHEN** to which Paul was looking ahead is described in I Corinthians 3:11-15; II Corinthians 5:10 = The judgement seat (bema) of Christ. Christians who have invested into and served others for Christ will hear the Lord say these glorious words: *"Well done, my good and faithful servant."*

Paul was always looking ahead to that moment with the Lord when together they will look behind as Jesus Christ evaluates Paul's ministry.

## II WHAT THE THESSALONIANS MEANT TO PAUL

- A) Paul deeply loved them and had poured into their lives (2:7-8, 11-12).  
B) He "worried" about them and longed to be reunited with them (3:5, 9-11).  
C) They were his hope, his joy, the crown in which he will glory (2:19-20).

This is what Paul meant: "Someday the whole church will be gathered together in Jesus's presence. It will be the best day ever, glorious beyond our wildest imaginations. I will look around and see familiar faces and I will be overwhelmed with joy to know that I, by the grace of God, played a helpful part in their lives so that now they can be with the Lord and He can be with them.  
It doesn't get any better than that! Thank-You Lord!

## III WE SHOULD WALK THE SAME AS PAUL

- A) The title of our I Thessalonians series is **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**. Paul walked out God's Word each day. You are called to imitate him (see 1:4-6). To imitate Paul is to invest your life into the lives of other Christians so that they might become your hope, your joy, the crown in which you will glory when the Lord Jesus comes!
- B) Read the commentary notes provided with today's message. You can do what Paul did for others. You can! And when the Lord comes the crown you wear will be the lives you have touched for Him.