

“Growing Pains”

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1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

3.25.12

Introduction:

- A. In truth, _____ is painful!
- B. Growing _____ can also be painful.
- C. Spiritual _____ and _____ have value we often can't appreciate at the time, but can make us grow strong over the course of time.

I. Exploring the Text

- A. Why did Paul constantly thank God for them? Because of the way they _____ the _____ of God (2:13).
- B. Those in Judea faced _____ and grew through it, and the Thessalonians followed their _____ and did the same (2:14).
- C. The Jews had a long history of _____ anyone who brought _____ to them (2:15).
- D. The result of the many sins of the Jews was that their sins stacked up to the _____ (2:16).
- E. The phrase “were torn from you” employs a powerful image—one of a _____ separated from a deceased _____, or a _____ orphaned from _____ (2:17).
- F. Paul wanted them to know that he tried to come to them, but that _____ had stopped him (2:18).
- G. Paul wanted them to know that they were his _____ (2:19-20).

II. Applying the Text - How to Experience Spiritual Growth

- A. Allow the _____ of God to _____ in us.
- B. Take seriously the _____ that is within us.
- C. Overcome the _____ Satan puts before us.
- D. Keep our _____ on the _____ ahead of us.

Answer Key: Intro. A. growth. B. spiritual. C. hardships, lessons. I.A. received, Word. I.B. persecution, example. I.C. rejecting, God's, Word. I.D. limit. I.E. parent, child, child, parents. I.F. Satan. I.G. crown. II.A. Word, work. II.B. sin. II.C. obstacles. II.D. eyes, prize.