



*Edgemont Bible Church*  
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*Thessalonians*

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Intro: 90 % of job loss has nothing to do with skill level, training, or education. It is the inability to be unselfish and get along with others whether as leader or minion. Likewise, for a spiritual leader, there must be the quality of sacrificial love for his people. Here, Paul confirms his love for the Thessalonians and his desire for them. Paul had left only because he was forced to leave - Acts 17:1-10. We can see Paul's attitude toward them in chapter 3:1-3, 5  
1Th 3:1-3 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this....For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

#### V. Out of Sight, but not Out of Mind

##### A. Paul's Love for the Thessalonians - vs 17-18a

###### 1. Paul continually writes of his love for the believers

a. Ro 1:7-12; Eph 6:21-24; Phil 1:3-8; 4:1; Col 1:3-12; 2 Thess 1:3-5; 2:13-14; 2 Tim 1:3-5; Tit 1:4; Phi 1-7

b. Even the strongly rebuked Galatians - 4:16-20

###### 2. But we - contrasting their love for the Thessalonians with the strong hostility the Jews had

###### 3. having been taken away, lit - to be torn away from

a. **aporphanizo** - to bereave wholly, i.e. (figuratively) separate (from intercourse):--take.

b. comes from 2 words apo meaning off and orphanos meaning bereaved ("orphan"), i.e. parentless:--comfortless, fatherless.

###### 4. from you for a short time in presence, not in heart

a. 1 Thess 1:2-4; 2:13; 3:9-13; 5:23-24; 2 Thess 1:3, 11-12; 2:13-16; 3:16

b. endeavored - **spoudazoto** - use speed, to make effort, be prompt, do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavor, labor, study.

c. more eagerly - **perissoteros** - more superabundantly:--more abundant(-ly), (more) exceedingly, more frequent, much more, the rather.

d. to see your face

i. in the collective sense

ii. Refers to intimate communication - Gen 33:10; 48:11; Ex 10:29; 1 Thess 3:10; 2 Jo 12

e. with great desire

i. **polle epithumia** - a general expression for any kind of dominant passion or compelling, controlling desire

ii. Usually used to denote sexual passion

5. Therefore

a. we wanted to come to you

i. contrary to the critics charge

ii. His desire to see them again was

- not for reasons of friendship or socialization

- but rather a sense of responsibility - Col 4:13

b. even I, Paul - the emphatic **ego**

c. time and again - with repeated effort

B. Paul's Understanding of His Enemy - vs 18b

1. another reality that Paul was well familiar with was that there was a very active enemy to the ministry - but Satan (opposing the Kingdom of God)

a. Tempted Christ - Mt 4

b. opposes the Gospel - Mt 13:19; 2 Co 4:4

c. performs counterfeit miracles - Ex 7:11; Acts 8:9-24; 13:8; 2 Thess 2:9

d. seeks to deceive believers - 2 Co 11:3, 14; Eph 6:11

e. perpetuates lies and murders - 1 Kgs 22:22; Jo 8:44

f. attacks individual churches - Acts 5:1-11; Rev 2:9, 13, 24; 3:9

g. especially attacks spiritual leaders - Job 1:6-2:8; Lk 22:31-32; 2 Co 12:7-9; 1 Tim 3:7

h. The NT tells us that he was present at the churches of

i. Jerusalem - Acts 5:1-10

ii. Corinth - 2 Co 2:1-11

iii. Ephesus - 1 Tim 3:6-7

iv. Smyrna - Rev 2:9-10

v. Pergamum - Rev 2:13

vi. Thyatira - Rev 2:24

vii. Philadelphia - Rev 3:9

2. hindered us

a. **egkopto** - a military term meaning to dig a trench or breaking up a road in order to impede an opposing force,

b. Paul pictures Satan as supernaturally obstructing his strong desire to see them again

C. Paul's Anticipation of Christ's Return - vs 19-20

1. Paul, John, Peter all taught people to live in light of the return of Christ

a. Ro 13:12; 1 Co 1 7-8; Phil 3:20; 4:5; 2 Tim 2:12; 4:8, 18; Tit 2:13; 1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 2 Pet 3:11; 1Jo 2:18; 3:1-3; 2 Jo 1:7

b. Paul plainly stated to the Thessalonians that the glory to come was a powerful motivator for ministry - 1 Thess 2:5-6, 10-12

2. Another reality that Paul recognized is the future perfection of believers

3. The three fold question emphasizing the point

a. 1st - For what is (who) our hope,

- i. The object of the hope is promised future reward and eternal blessing
    - ii. Ro 5:2; Col 1:5, 2:7; 1 Thess 1:3; Tit 1:2; 2:13; 3:7; Heb 6:11; 1 Pet 1:13
  - b. 2nd - For what is (who) the source of our joy, or eternal happiness and satisfaction – Mt 25:21; Phil 4:1; Jd 24
  - c. 3rd - For what is (who) our crown of rejoicing?
    - i. Crown – Festive wreath; victor’s crown - Pro 1:9 – graceful ornament; 1 Pet 5:4 - Glory; Rev 2:10 - life; 3:11; 6:2
    - ii. Rejoicing – exultation; exuberant expression of joyful feelings; sometimes translated boasting, in the righteous sense – could be translated crown which is rejoicing like:
      - crown of life - Jms 1:12 - crown which is life
      - crown of righteousness - 2 Tim 4:8 – crown which is righteousness
      - the incorruptible crown - 1 Co 9:25 – salvation’s triumph over sin’s corruption
- 3. The answer to the threefold question - Is it not even you
  - a. in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
    - i. his anticipation for the future was the assurance that he would be in the presence of the Lord – 1:10; Ro 8:19-20; 1 Co 1:7; Phil 3:20; Tit 2:13
    - ii. Part of the joy that he would experience is that at His Coming, he would see all the believers to whom he had ministered – 2 Co 1:14; Phil 2:16
  - b. The timing to receive the promised joys - at His coming – Rev 22:12
    - i. The Lord will reward each one at the Judgment (Bema) seat – Ro 14:10; 1 Co 3:12-15; 2 Co 5:10; Mt 12:36; 2 Co 9:6; Gal 6:7,9; Eph 6:8; Col 3:24-25
    - ii. **Parousia** – majority of use has end time reference – 1 Co 15:23; 1 Thess 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thess 2:1, 8-9; Jms 5:7-8, 2 Pet 3:4, 12; 1 Jo 2:28
      - sometimes refers to his coming after the tribulation (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) – Mt 24:3, 27, 37, 39
      - in 1 Thess it refers to the Rapture because he was writing to believers that were waiting for Christ’ return – 1:10; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23
- 4. For you are our glory and joy.
  - a. You is emphatic
  - b. identifies the Thessalonians as a source of eternal honor and happiness