

Paul's Love and Concern for the Believers

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 [Page 1839]

Prayer Concerns:**Paul expresses his love for them, and his desire to return to them:**

We were _____ by being separated from you for a short time—in person, not in _____ [NIV] or _____ [ESV].

We wanted to come to you—but _____ blocked our way.

Paul's motivation: his _____ and _____ for the _____ he received from Jesus.

For what is our _____, our _____, or the _____ in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

Paul shares his concern for them:

“...I sent to find out about your _____. I was afraid...the _____ had _____, and that our labors might have been in vain.

Timothy was sent to _____ and _____ them in their _____ so they would not be _____ by trials.

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

The Bible Recap:

1. What did the Lord impress upon you as you read Genesis 12–21 this past week?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17–3:5

1. Think of a time when you've been separated from a Christian friend or family member and not heard any word of how that person was doing. How did you feel?
2. What intense words reveal Paul's feelings for the church in Thessalonica?
3. How might Paul have kept himself from discouragement when he found his return to Thessalonica blocked?

4. What did Paul hope to receive (indirectly, through Timothy's report) from the Thessalonians?

5. Paul had tried to prepare the Thessalonians for meeting trials. How might his own words have strengthened him as he awaited news about them?

6. How do you interpret Paul's statement that the Thessalonians would be his hope, joy, and crown when Jesus returns? Who is (or are) your own hope, joy, and crown?

Taking it Home:

1. What is your hope, joy, and crown? How often do you reflect on why you were saved? What was God's purpose in calling you?