

1 Thessalonians 2

Week 6: "Longing for Togetherness"

I wonder how long Paul would have stayed in Thessalonica; had he not been forced to leave town. I believe Paul left before he felt that his work was done. Imagine giving instructions briefly to someone and then not being able to go over them again for understanding. I picture that this is where Paul is at with his work in Thessalonica.

He expresses his deep concern for them. Did he do enough? Did they understand enough? How have they applied these words that He taught them? A lot of unknowns swirled in Paul's mind, and he expresses his desire to get back to them. In 2:19, he compares them to a "crown" that they will have in the presence of God one day. It is obvious that Paul cared deeply about them.

At the end of the passage, Paul extends his concern for them by praying for them. His heart and attitude were exactly how we should respond to all those around us.

Questions for the Week:

1. What verse or thought did you want to revisit from the message time this week
2. Is attending a church service without getting to know other believers sufficient? What actions do you take to foster deeper connections with other believers?
3. Why do you think Paul calls them his "hope", "joy", and "crown"?
4. What kind of trials are you facing?
5. If you're in need of encouragement, have you shared that with anyone?
6. Who are you praying for today? Do "they" know?

Memory Verse:

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13 (ESV)

¹² *and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,*

¹³ *so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*