

Paul's Longing to See the Thessalonians - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Topics

Encouragement, Future, Persecution, Rewards, Satan, Separation, Temptation

Open It Questions

1. If you were accused of a crime you didn't commit, how would you respond?

2. How do you encourage a friend who is feeling down and hopeless?

Explore It Questions

3. How did Paul describe his departure and separation from the Thessalonians? (2:17)

4. What stopped Paul from returning to Thessalonica? (2:18)

5. What did Paul say would be his crown or reward at the Second Coming of the Lord? (2:19)

6. Why did Paul consider the Thessalonians his glory and joy?
(2:19-20)

7. Whom did the apostles send to Thessalonica to check up on the church? (3:1-2)

8. What was Timothy's mission? (3:2)

9. What did Paul say about trials? (3:3)

10. What concern did Paul have for the Thessalonian church? (3:3-5)

11. What did Paul think might undercut the faith of the new believers at Thessalonica? (3:3-5)

12. Why did Paul send someone to check on the Thessalonians? (3:5)

Get It Questions

13. How does Satan hinder or stop our efforts or plans?

14. How can investing your life in someone pay eternal dividends?

15. What personal accomplishments will count for something when we stand in the presence of Christ?

16. What practical things can we do to strengthen and encourage others in their faith?

17. How can opposition discourage and damage the faith of a young believer?

18. How could you help a young believer whose faith has been damaged by opposition or discouragement?

Apply It Questions

19. This week, how could you resist the temptations that hinder your spiritual progress?

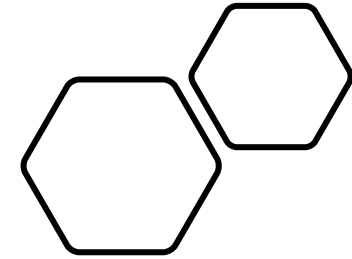
20. What younger believer can you help get established in the faith?
How?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.

*“Paul’s Longing to See the
Thessalonians”*

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Southfield, Michigan

*Welcome to
Bible Study*



1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Facilitators:

Rev. Rodney Kemp

Rev. Valerie Crump

Rev. Jacqueline Albert

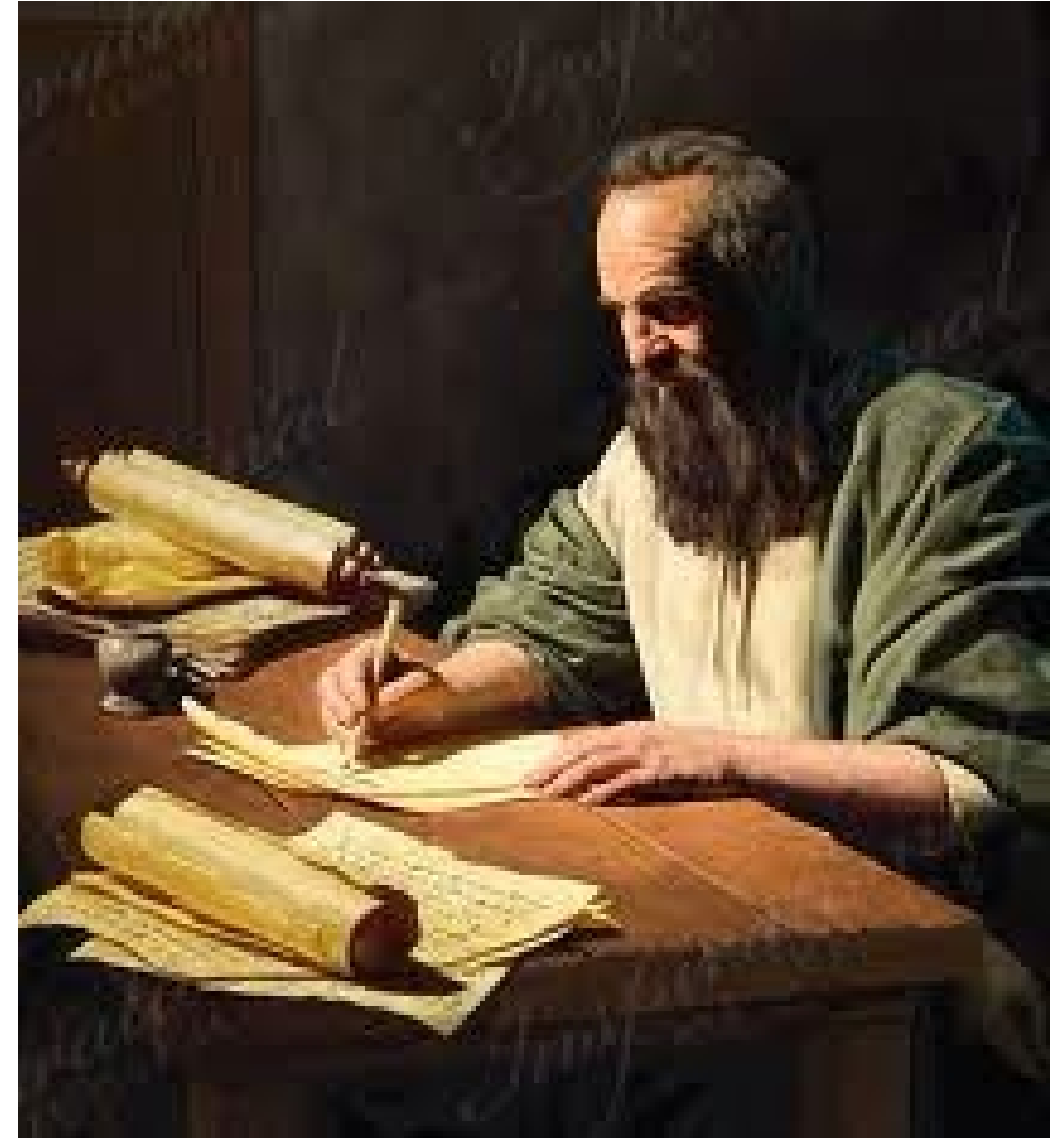
Dean Donna Wilson

Alicia Martin, Minister-
in-Training

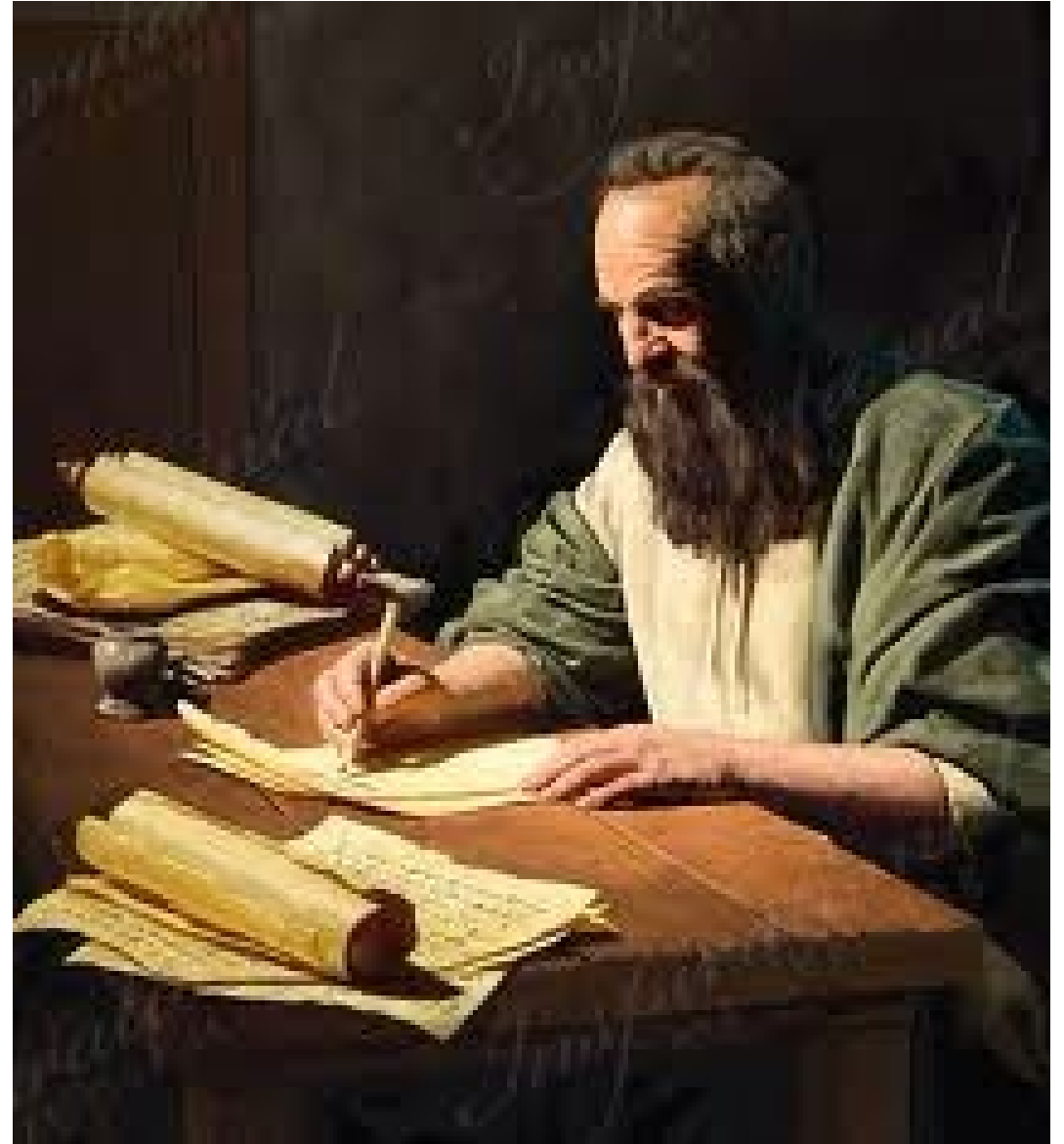
Prayer

Sick
Bereaved

Our Country
Our Leaders
Our World



Topics



Topics

- ☐ Encouragement
- ☐ Future
- ☐ Persecution
- ☐ Rewards
- ☐ Satan
- ☐ Separation
- ☐ Temptation



Open It Questions



Open It Questions

1. If you were accused of a crime you didn't commit, how would you respond?



Open It Questions

2. How do you encourage a friend who is feeling down and hopeless?



Introduction



Introduction

Paul had been explaining to the Thessalonian believers why he and Silas had been unable to return to them. It had not been, as their detractors had said, because of fear or because they had been lying. Instead, Paul and Silas had wanted to come back but had been prevented by evil spiritual forces ([2:18](#)). However, they did not leave the young believers in Thessalonica without help—as the following verses explain.



Scripture

**1 Thessalonians
2:17-3:5 (NLT)**



Scripture

¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again.

¹⁸ We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us.

¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!

²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy.



Scripture

^{3:1}Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens,

²and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith,

³and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through.



Scripture

⁴ Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know.

⁵ That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.



Explore It Questions



Explore It Questions

3. How did Paul describe his departure and separation from the Thessalonians? ([2:17](#))

¹⁷Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again.



Explore It Questions

4. What stopped Paul from returning to Thessalonica?
([2:18](#))

¹⁸ We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us.



Explore It Questions

5. What did Paul say would be his crown or reward at the Second Coming of the Lord? ([2:19](#))

¹⁹After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!



Explore It Questions

6. Why did Paul consider the Thessalonians his glory and joy? ([2:19-20](#))

¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!

²⁰ Yes, you are our glory and joy (KJV/NIV/AMP).



Explore It Questions

7. Whom did the apostles send to Thessalonica to check up on the church? ([3:1-2](#))

¹Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens,

²and we sent Timothy to visit you.

He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith,...



Explore It Questions

8. What was Timothy's mission?

[\(3:2\)](#)

² ...and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, ...



Explore It Questions

9. What did Paul say about trials? ([3:3](#))

*³...and to keep you from being shaken by the **troubles** you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such **troubles**.*

[afflictions (KJV), trials (NIV), troubles (NLT), difficulties (AMP)]



Explore It Questions

10. What concern did Paul have for the Thessalonian church? ([3:3-5](#))

³ ...and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles. ⁴ Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know. ⁵ That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.



Explore It Questions

11. What did Paul think might undercut the faith of the new believers at Thessalonica? ([3:3-5](#))

³ ...and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles. ⁴ Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know. ⁵ That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.



Explore It Questions

12. Why did Paul send someone to check on the Thessalonians? ([3:5](#))

That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.



**Get It Questions
#13 - #18**

**Apply It Questions
#19 - 20**



NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

“Timothy’s Encouraging Report”



1 THESSALONIANS



Prayer

