

With The Master In View of His Return
Lesson 8 - Paul's Joy in Paul's Absence - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

1. (a) According to 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 how did Paul feel about the church at Thessalonica? (b) How does he feel about the church at Rome and Philippi according to Romans 1:8-13; Philippians 1:3-8? (c) What is similar and what is different about how Paul feels about these three churches?
2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 2:20.
3. Evidently Satan hindered Paul from seeing the Thessalonians according to 1 Thessalonians 2:18. (a) According to the following verses, why is it easy to see that Satan would have that kind of power to hinder Paul? Genesis 3:14, 15; Matthew 4:1; 13:24-30; John 8:44; 12:31; 17:15; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:7, 9, 10; 20:2. (b) Since God is Sovereign then why would Paul say that Satan hindered him and not that God hindered him? Prove your answer Biblically. (c) Is there a time in your life when you knew Satan hindered you? What did you do or how did you react?
4. (a) According to Romans 1:13 and 15:22-29, what other church was Paul hindered from coming to and why? (b) What should our attitude be when we are hindered from seeing someone we want to see or doing something we want to do? Again, please prove your answer from the Scriptures.
5. (a) Who are some of the people you have invested your life into spiritually? (b) What adjectives would you use to describe them? (c) Why not take some time this week and write a note as Paul did, telling them what they mean to you.
6. Personal question: Who do you know that you have influenced spiritually, either through the gospel or discipling, that will be with you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? If you can't name anyone, then you might need to ask yourself why your life is not impacting others for the kingdom.
7. Even though Paul was absent from those he loved, he purposed to dwell on good things. What tough time are you going through now and how can you purpose to dwell on what is good? Please put your need in the form of a prayer request.