

I Thessalonians

Chapter 2:17-3:13

IV. PAUL'S ENDEAVORS CONCERNING THE THESSALONIANS

- A. Were first of all to see them but he had been hindered (17-18)
 - 1. Note although Paul and his companions had been taken out of their presence, their hearts were still with them (17).
 - 2. Paul said "*once and again*" he would have come but Satan had hindered (18). The way he hindered is probably through the security or bond that Jason and his friends gave to the rulers of the city. It no doubt was to band Paul from the city. Note Acts 17:5-9).
- B. Were the result of a soulwinner's concern for them (19-20)
 - 1. The Thessalonian converts were apart of the basis of Paul's reward and rejoicing.
 - 2. Since Paul saw them as his basis for glory and joy this made him concerned about them and desire to be with them (20).
- C. Were to find out if they were steadfast in the midst of all their afflictions (3:1-5).
 - 1. So when he could stand it no longer not knowing, he sent Timothy (1-2). Paul's purpose in sending Timothy was also to establish and comfort them so they wouldn't be moved from their faith by the trials they were suffering (3). This thing of suffering tribulation for faith in Christ is what he had told them when he was with them (4).
 - 2. Another reason he sent Timothy was to see if the tempter or devil had deceived them and his labor been in vain (5).
- D. Were rewarded when Timothy brought him back word from them (6-10)
 - 1. The good tidings of their faith, love, and remembrance of Paul and his fellow-workers made them comforted in their afflictions (7). Paul said we can live now, not the word "*if*" but "*since*" ye stand fast in the Lord (8). This expresses what travail of soul Paul had for them and not knowing of their state.
 - 2. Timothy's word about the Thessalonians created in Paul thanksgiving to God for the joy over them (9).

3. The word concerning the Thessalonians also caused Paul to pray that he might see them and might complete what their faith lacked (10). This refers to his teaching ministry which was prematurely interrupted.

E. Were now, more than before, for God to direct him to them (11)

1. The word "**and**" should be rendered "**even**" referring to God our Father.

2. The word "**direct**" means "**to make straight**". In other words He wanted God to send him unhindered to them.

F. Were for the Lord to make them abound in Love (12-13)

1. Note this love was to abound toward one another and also toward all men (12).

2. Love is not the end here but it is a means to the end of being unblamable in holiness (13).