

“ABSENCE MADE PAUL'S HEART GROW FONDER”

(1 Thessalonians 2:17-20)

- I. THE PRESCRIPT OF “1 THESSALONIANS” (1:1)
- II. THEIR THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THESE THESSALONIAN BELIEVERS. (1:2-10)
- III. THE VINDICATION OF THEIR MESSAGE AND MINISTRY. (2:1-16)
- IV. THE EXPLANATION OF THEIR ABSENCE/SEPARATION (2:17-3:10)

A. Regarding PAUL. (2:17-20)

1. His *desire to return*. (2:17-18)

a. Their departure from Thessalonica...

was _____... *“having been taken away from you”*

was _____... *“for a short time...”*

was only _____... *“in presence, not in heart...”*

* What can you learn from this?

b. Their desire to return...

1) was _____... *“endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire”*

2) was _____... *“Therefore we wanted to come to you-- even I, Paul, time and again”*

3) was hindered by _____... *“but Satan hindered us.”*

* What can you learn from this?

2. His *delight in these believers*. (2:19-20)

a. Rhetorical question #1: *“For what is our _____, or _____, or crown of _____?”*

* What should this remind us of?

* What should you know about the judgment seat of Christ?

b. Rhetorical question #2: “*Is is not even _____ in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ at His _____.*”

* What should this also remind us of?

* What should you know about the “*parousia*” of Jesus Christ?

c. Closing conclusion: ‘*For _____ are our _____ and _____.*’

* How does this apply to you?