

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13 – Bible Study

Note:

The subject of 'Satan' appears in this Bible passage. You may wish to do some preparation before your meeting to think through this subject more. You may find this article from 'The Gospel Coalition' helpful - www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/satan-and-demons

Read:

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

General question:

What stands out to you from this passage?

Further questions:

Paul's love (2:17, 19-20 and 3:1-2, 5, 9-10, 12)

1. Paul has an "intense longing" for the church in Thessalonica. His love and care are very evident in this passage. Do you feel a deep love for those in our church family? If so, how do you express this love to others?
2. This might be a sensitive question, but are there ways you don't feel loved or cared for by our church?
3. With regards loving others, Nat used the image of a swimming pool on Sunday to speak about being in the 'shallow end'. In what ways do you need to go 'deeper' with God?

Paul's love hindered (2:18, 3:5)

1. What sometimes hinders you from loving others in the church?
2. Paul says "Satan blocked our way" from visiting the Thessalonians. How do you feel about the topic of the devil? How best do we understand his influence in our world?
3. What is the best way to respond if we ever feel we're encountering the devil (spiritual forces of evil) coming against us? (You may like to read Psalm 35:1-10 as a prayer).
4. Paul is concerned that these Christians, who are facing trials, may be tempted away (3:5) and the gospel be in vain in their lives. In what ways are you tempted away from loving others? (Eg; Hurt, bitterness, gossip, busyness...).

Paul's love expressed (3:11-13)

Re-read verses 11-13, it is Paul's prayer for this church.

1. Paul prays that he will be able to come and see them again soon. Nat said "presence is powerful" on Sunday. Do you agree with this? Discuss the difference it can make when we see one another in person.
2. Paul prays that their love for one another will increase. Do you ever pray this for yourself or our church?
3. Paul prays that they will be strengthened. In what ways do you need strengthening at the moment?