

11. How might these verses guide our prayers for the churches in which we minister or to which we belong?

Week beginning 30th October 2023
Sermon: Sunday 5th November 2023

Study 3: Paul's longing to see the Thessalonians.

Readings: 1Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:13

Can you think of someone you care for but are unable to visit. What sort of feelings does this arouse? Why is it that you cannot see them, what would you be willing to do so you could?

Read 1Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:13:

1. How might the nature of Paul's rushed departure in Acts 17 added to his sense of loss in not being able to visit the church in Thessalonica?
2. What evidence do you find in this passage that Paul really did love the Thessalonians?

3. In 1Thessalonians 2:18 Paul writes about his efforts to return to the Thessalonians. Elsewhere Paul attributes similar blockages to his journeys to God, why do you think he attributed this one to Satan?
4. How important is it for Paul to help those he reached for Christ to grow? (v19)
5. What fears caused Paul to send Timothy to Thessalonica (3:2 – 5)?
6. What did it cost Paul to remain alone in Athens? In sending Timothy to Thessalonica what did Paul want him to achieve?
7. Paul had warned the Thessalonians that they would be persecuted. How might they and we be prepared for future persecutions?
8. What good news was Timothy able to report on his return? Imagine the impact it must have made on Paul in his distress. What was Paul's response to this news?
9. What was Paul's desire for the Thessalonians? How do these desires and priorities for the Thessalonians reflect his love for them?
10. How might Paul's example in v12 have helped the Thessalonians' love to increase and overflow?