

First Thessalonians 2:17-20
Paul's Desire
Paul's Updates—2:17-3:13
Personal Comments—1:1-3:13

- 1) Paul expresses his desire to see the Thessalonian believers again in person—2:17 ¹⁷ *But we* (emphatic), *brothers, ... we made exceedingly great effort [spoudazo] to see your^{pl} face*
 - a) When? *having been separated [aporphanizo] from you^{pl} for a short time*
 - i) Paul was unwillingly and abruptly separated from those he loved (cf. Acts 17:5-10). (Magill)
 - ii) Cf. the references to “mother” in 2:7 and “father” in 2:11
 - b) In what way? (*in presence, not in heart*)
 - c) How? *in great longing [epithumia]*.
- 2) Paul restates his desire—2:18 ¹⁸ *Therefore we desired [thelo] to come to you^{pl}*
 - a) More than once—(*I, Paul, time and again*)
 - b) Opposition—*but Satan thwarted/interrupted us.*
 - i) Cf. Romans 15:22
 - ii) Cf. with the Spirit's hindering Paul in Acts 16:6-7
- 3) Paul uses rhetorical questions to express his affections for them concerning the future—2:19
 - a) ¹⁹ *For who is our hope, or joy, or crown/reward [stephanos] of boasting?*
 - i) It is also characterized by being: imperishable (1st Corinthians 9:25); righteousness (2nd Timothy 4:8); life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10); and glory (1st Peter 5:4).
 - ii) Not so much 5 rewards, but rather 5 aspects of one reward.
 - b) *Is it not even you^{pl}, in the presence of our Lord Jesus in His coming [parousia]?*
 - i) This is a reference to Jesus' return at the Rapture. Cf. 1st Corinthians 15:23; 1st Thessalonians 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2nd Thessalonians 2:1; James 5:7, 8; 1st John 2:28
- 4) Paul makes his affections for them extremely clear concerning the present—2:20
 - a) ²⁰ *For you^{pl}* (emphatic) *are our glory and joy.*