

I Thessalonians Chapter Two and Three

v. 17, 18 - Paul expresses deep emotion as he describes how he was taken from them, in the Greek a word is used (aporphaniso) from which we get our word orphan. He states he was torn apart from them. This shows how much he felt for them and how much they were in his heart. He lets them know how he tried over and over to see them again, but was hindered by Satan. The term "hindered" is a military word, for example, a military blockade to halt an army's progress. It's strategic, it's on purpose. V. 19,20 – Paul considers them his hope, joy and crown of rejoicing before him in the presence of the Lord at his second coming (Parousia, term that became used for the second coming of Christ, used for the first time here). They are his joy and glory.

One of the reasons Paul wrote this epistle was to defend his ministry and his motives. Obviously, some had tried to discredit him, and if successful, they could discredit what he preached.. He called on the Thessalonians to remember – v. 1,5,9, 10, 11, . You know, You remember, You are witnesses to how I behaved before you. Each point of his behavior was to answer some false charge or accusation.

Chapter Three

V1-5 – Paul, not being able to stand the separation from them, and the not knowing how they were doing, sends Timothy to them, which leaves him alone. (Silas may or may not be with him—he was sent to Philippi shortly after Timothy was sent to Thess.) He wanted Timothy to 1)Establish them in their faith 2) and Comfort or encourage them in the midst of their afflictions, that they would not be discouraged by them. But he told them there would be tribulations, and it came to pass. He was very concerned about them. V.5) He did not want the tempter to tempt them, and his labor be in vain.

v. 6 – This brings us to Paul's present and the occasion for writing the letter. Timothy comes back bringing good tidings of their faith and love, and their good feelings for him, Paul, and their desire to see him again.

v.7-9 - Paul was comforted from his affliction (anxiety) and distress (pressure, rubbing) by their faith. 8) energized because they were standing fast in the Lord.. It made him joyful, thank the Lord.

v.10,11 – He prayed that God would get him to them to perfect what they lacked in their faith.

v.12,13 – He prays that they grow abound in love, to the end that God establish their hearts unblameable in holiness until the Parousia, the second coming of Christ.

The Hebrew and Greek Key Study Bible – Spiro Zodhiates, Th.D.