

## Study 3

### Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

**Objective:** 1 Thessalonians is an encouragement to all believers to continue living lives worthy of God. It is a book that reminds the believer of the essentials of the Christian faith.

**Opening Questions:**

1. What do you take pleasure in?
  
2. What do you do when you're having a bad day?

**Body of this Week's Study:**

Having left Thessalonica early, Paul was very concerned about the new believers there. In 2:19, he compares them to a "crown" that they will have in the presence of God one day. It is obvious that Paul cared deeply about them. At the end of the passage, Paul extends his concern for them by praying for them. His heart and attitude were exactly how we should respond to all those around us.

**Text Questions:**

1. Why did Paul, Silas, and Timothy leave the Thessalonians?
  
2. What was Paul afraid of?
  
3. What was his desire?
  
4. Why do you think Paul calls them his "hope", "joy", and "crown"?

**Application Questions:**

1. What guidelines can you find in Paul's desires and concerns for the Thessalonians that would apply to those that disciple Christians today? And how does this apply to you?
2. What kind of trials are you facing?
3. In what areas do you need encouragement?
4. Paul prays a prayer of blessing over the Thessalonians at the end of this passage. What would you have Paul pray over you? What would you pray over your core group members, friends, or family?

**Creative Implementation for the Week/Spiritual Exercise:**

Throughout Scripture, we see prayers of blessing over people or persons. Paul prays a blessing over the Thessalonians at the end of Chapter 3. Take time to think and write down a blessing for your small group. What would you like to see God do in their lives? How would you want someone to bless you?

**Memory Verse:**

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." - 1 Thess. 3:12-13