

**PAUL'S GLORY AND JOY**  
**(1 Thessalonians 2:17-20)**

**I. The desire of Paul (vs. 17).**

- A. Paul's desire was to be with these brethren.
- B. Have you ever met a good parent that did not want to be with his/her children?
  - 1. If you are a good parent you want to be with your children as much as you can.
  - 2. Paul was the one who converted these people to Christ through his preaching and he wanted to be with them.
- C. It seems as if his intention was to come back to them quickly when things died down in Thessalonika.
  - 1. Notice that he says he was taken from them for a short time.
  - 2. The word time indicates an opportune time in the Greek.
- D. Paul was never away from them in heart, only in body.
  - 1. A preacher who loves the congregation for which he preaches is always thinking about what can be done for the congregation.
  - 2. What can be done better, who needs encouragement and many other things are on the mind of the preacher, even when he is away.
  - 3. I believe the same is true for an elder of a congregation.
- E. He had a great desire, a longing, to be with them and strengthen and edify them.

**II. The devil's hindrance (vs. 18).**

- A. Paul had every intention of coming back to them, but the devil impeded his actions in some way.
- B. Any talk about what the hindrance was is speculation because we are not told the exact hindrance thrown at Paul by the devil.
  - 1. However, we see in the account in Acts where the Jews of Thessalonika came to Berea and persecuted Paul.
  - 2. More than likely, the hindrance was of this nature.
- C. The devil is still in the business of hindering the work of the church.
  - 1. Our culture is a great hindrance.
    - a. The views of people towards morality, religion in general and many other things has the devil at its roots.
    - b. The views of those in the pro-homosexual movement, the pro-abortion movements and other such movements are encouraged by the devil.
  - 2. The sins of the brethren are a great hindrance.
    - a. Whenever a member of the church gets caught up in sin it hinders the work.
    - b. People outside of Christ see it and know it.
  - 3. The attitudes of the brethren are great hindrances at times.
    - a. Some are apathetic - they simply aren't interested.
    - b. Some are ignorant - they don't know and they don't know

