In this letter, Paul has been addressing his ministry in Thessalonica and their response. Now he begins to deal with his abrupt departure (Acts 17:10)

17 **But** since we were **torn away from you**, brothers, for a short time, in person ***not in heart***, we ***endeavored*** the more eagerly and with ***great desire*** to see you **face to face**,

Not in Heart -> 1:2-3; 2:13

18 because ***we wanted to come to you***—I, **Paul**, again and again—but **Satan** ***hindered us***. **Why does Paul fervently desire to be with them again?**

19 **For** what is our **hope** or **joy** or **crown** of boasting ***before our Lord Jesus at his coming***? **Is it not you**? **<- 2Co 1:14; Ph 2:16 1:10 "to wait for his Son from heaven"**

20 **For** you are our **glory** and **joy**. **Ph 4:1 "my joy and crown"**

1 **Therefore** when we could ***bear it no longer***, we were willing to be left behind at **Athens** alone, **<- Acts 17:13-34**

2 and **we sent Timothy**, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to **establish** and **exhort** you *in your faith*,

3 that no one be moved by **these afflictions**. For you yourselves know that ***we are destined for this***. **How did they know they were "destined" for suffering?**

4 **For** when we were with you, we kept ***telling you*** beforehand that ***we were to suffer affliction***, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

5 **For** this reason, when I could ***bear it no longer***, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow **the tempter** had tempted you and ***our labor would be in vain***. **<- Gal 4:11; Phil 2:16**

A_____ (17-20)

Be Made an Orphan (17)

*The word translated "***torn away***" literally means "***to be made an orphan***"

*Paul depicts himself like a ***parent being cut off*** from their children (**2:7, 11**)

*Paul is also emphasizing that his ***separation from them was NOT by choice***, and he wishes he could still be with them!

At His Coming (19)

*Being ***found with Jesus at His coming*** is the **MOST important thing in life**!

*Paul wants **ALL his spiritual children** to be with him in **glory**!

A_____ (1-2)

Bear it no longer (1, 5)

*This is ***how important*** the Christians in Thessalonica were to Paul!

*Paul was ***willing to be alone*** so he could send Timothy back to them!

A_____ (3-5)

Destined for This (3)

Telling You (4)

Suffering for Christ is a natural part of our faith in Him because ***genuine righteousness will ALWAYS be offensive*** to the world.

-Matt 5:10-12; 2Ti 3:10-13

Timothy (1-13)

Acts 16:1-5; 17:14-15; 18:5; 1Co 4:17; Phil 2:19-20; 1Tim 1:2; 2Tim 1:2

Torn Away from You (17)

*The Christians in Thessalonica **might have felt deserted by Paul.**

*This also could have been an **accusation from Paul's opponents.** i.e. "*look how your teacher deserted you!*"

Satan Hindered Us (18)

*Paul had been driven from **Thessalonica** by Jews who "*formed a mob*".

-Acts 17:5-10

*These same Jews followed Paul to **Berea** and were "*stirring up the crowds*".

-Acts 17:13-15

Establish & Exhort (2)

*Timothy is continuing Paul's work (**2:11-12**)

*While these Christians had responded positively to the Gospel message, they were still ***new in their faith***. **-1:2-10; 2:13-14**

*We ALWAYS have ***room to grow*** in our faith (**4:1**)

These Afflictions

Acts 17:5-10** "the Jews...formed a mob***"

1:6** "you received the word in ***much affliction"

2:14-16** "you suffered*** the same things from your own countrymen"

The Tempter (5)

***i.e. Satan (Mt 4:3; 1Co7:5)**

*All of us are ***vulnerable*** to the ***schemes of Satan***

-1Co 10:12; 1Pe 5:8

*This is especially true of those who are **new in their faith (1Ti 3:6-7)**

*Because ***Paul KNEW they would face suffering,*** he ***KNEW they needed support***!

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Blanks

Abandoned?
Assurance
Affliction

Abrupt Departure

Acts 17:10 (ESV)
10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Be Made an Orphan

1 Thessalonians 2:7 (ESV)
7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

1 Thessalonians 2:11 (ESV)
11 For you know how, like a father with his children,

Not in Heart

1 Thessalonians 1:2–3 (ESV)
2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)
13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Satan Hindered Us

Acts 17:5–10 (ESV)
5 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. 6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, 7 and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” 8 And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they

heard these things. [9] And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

[10] The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Acts 17:13–15 (ESV)
[13] But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. [14] Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. [15] Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

<u>At His Coming</u>

2 Corinthians 1:14 (ESV)
[14] just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

Philippians 2:16 (ESV)
[16] holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)
[10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

<u>Athens</u>

Acts 17:13–34 (ESV)
[13] But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. [14] Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. [15] Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

[16] Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. [17] So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. [18] Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. [19] And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus,

saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? [20] For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” [21] Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

[22] So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. [23] For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. [24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. [26] And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, [28] for

“ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

[29] Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. [30] The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, [31] because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

[32] Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” [33] So Paul went out from their midst. [34] But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

<u>Establish & Exhort</u>

1 Thessalonians 2:11–12 (ESV)
[11] For you know how, like a father with his children, [12] we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 1:2–10 (ESV)
[2] We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers

loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. [9] For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (ESV)
[13] And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. [14] For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

<u>These Afflictions</u>

Acts 17:5–10 (ESV)
[5] But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. [6] And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, [7] and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” [8] And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. [9] And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.
[10] The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)
[6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 2:14–16 (ESV)
[14] For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, [15] who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind [16] by hindering us from speaking to

the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

Destined for This

Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV)
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Timothy 3:10–13 (ESV)
10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

The Tempter

Matthew 4:3 (ESV)
3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

1 Corinthians 7:5 (ESV)
5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)
12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)
8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Timothy 3:6–7 (ESV)
6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

In Vain

Galatians 4:11 (ESV)
11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

Philippians 2:16 (ESV)
16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Timothy

Acts 16:1–5 (ESV)
1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Acts 17:14–15 (ESV)
14 Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. 15 Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

Acts 18:5 (ESV)
5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)
17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

Philippians 2:19–20 (ESV)
19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

1 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)
2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:17–20 (ESV)

17 But since we were torn away
from you, brothers, for a short time,
in person not in heart, we
endeavored the more eagerly and
with great desire to see you face to
face, 18 because we wanted to
come to you—I, Paul, again and
again—but Satan hindered us. 19
For what is our hope or joy or crown
of boasting before our Lord Jesus at
his coming? Is it not you? 20 For you
are our glory and joy.