

You Are My Hope, Joy, Glory & Crown

January 25, 2026

Bible Passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Big Idea: It's worth the _____ to help another _____ Jesus above all else.

#1-One of the _____ things you will ever do in life is to nurture the _____ of another---but it's worth it (2:17-18, 3:1-5)

- God did a deep work _____ before he did a deep work _____.
- God grew a noticeable _____ to _____ people in the heart of Paul.
- God's _____ stands ready always to push back against a movement of God.

#2-There is great _____ in nurturing the _____ of another (2:19-20)

- They were his h _____
 - Their development was what he lived for, as a parent lives to see his children grow up to maturity, to produce and reproduce.
- They were his _____ & _____
 - They filled his heart with inner satisfaction as he thought about what they used to be, what they had become and what God would continue to do in them.
- They were his _____
 - They were the symbol of God's blessing on his life and ministry.

“(Paul) was overpowered, subdued, and held as in a vise by ‘the love of Christ.’ Very few of us really know what it means to be held in the grip of the love of Christ. We tend so often to be controlled simply by our own experience. The one thing that gripped and held Paul, to the exclusion of everything else, was the love of God.”

-- Oswald Chambers

Truth Into Action:

- Nurturing the faith of another comes out of a life re-shaped by the gospel. **Make a growing concern for the spiritual needs of others a priority for your life in 2026.**
- Live today with your eyes on the future. **Imagine standing before the Lord and seeing many souls whom God used your life to be re-shaped by the gospel making much of Jesus on judgement day.**
- When Jesus comes back, what will be your “hope, joy, glory and crown” before the Lord?
 - List their name(s) _____

Pray first†



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Warm Up: When you think of heaven, what things do you look forward to?

1. Paul had a dynamic ministry with the believers in Thessalonica (2:1-16). According to 2:17-20, what was his underlying motivation for doing so? Why was Paul willing to give and risk so much, in order to help the Thessalonians follow Jesus?
2. Paul says that he had been prevented from coming to visit the Thessalonians by Satan himself (2:18). What are we to make of this? What can we learn from it about the nature of the demonic realm? What application can we make for our lives as Christians? Look up these verses and describe a few characteristics of Satan (2 CORINTHIANS 11:14; REVELATION 12:9; JOHN 8:44; 1 PETER 5:8; JAMES 4:7; 1 THESSALONIANS 3:5)
3. Paul says the believers in Thessalonica will be his “hope”, and “joy”, and “glory”, and “crown” before the Lord Jesus when he returns (2:19-20). What do you think that he means by this? What does this imply about the nature of relationships, and gospel ministry? What does it imply about how investments in those things compare to investments in the things of this world (possessions, etc.)?
4. Paul says that they sent Timothy to go visit the Thessalonians and encourage them (3:1-3) - which would have been a costly and risky endeavor. (Travel, expenses, danger, threats of violence, etc.) Why do you think that they were willing to take on that kind of cost and risk? Do you think it was worth it? Why or why not?
5. Paul makes it clear that suffering is an ordinary part of the Christian life, and that the Thessalonians should expect it, and prepare for it (3:3-4). What application does this have for us today? How should we be preparing for suffering in our lives? What can we be doing to help ensure that we will be able to persevere when suffering comes?
6. Paul says that they were concerned that the Thessalonians might have been tempted, and that their labor might have been in vain, and wanted confirmation that this was not the case (3:5). What does this verse teach us about the perseverance (remaining in the faith), and about apostasy (falling away from the faith)? How can we, as Christians, attempt to guard ourselves (and others around us) from falling away from the faith?
7. Read through the Truth into Action and discuss their implications for your life.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Father, for reminding me today of the priority of living with a sacrificial love and concern for the spiritual well-being of others. Help me to persevere so that I will look forward to your return. Help me to make choices and live in such a way that I might be able to say to lots of different souls “you are my joy, hope, glory and crown.” In Jesus sweet name! Amen