



# THE TRANSFORMING GOSPEL

## 1 THESSALONIANS

### 1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:13 - Study #3 Joyous Gospel Ministry

What brings you joy in life?

In this week's passage we see what is bringing joy to Paul. Last week we saw how Paul conducted himself while in Thessalonica. In this week's passage, Paul's focus shifts back to the Thessalonians and how they are going in the faith. How the Thessalonians are going is a great source of joy and encouragement to Paul.

The passage this week can be broken into 5 different sections;

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 – The reception of the gospel
2. 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 – The Apostle's exit and attempts of return
3. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 – The mission of Timothy
4. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10 – The comforting report
5. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 – The desire to return

What runs through this whole passage is Paul's great desire to see the Thessalonians continue to be transformed by the gospel. Paul's fear is that his labour with the Thessalonians might have been in vain (1 Thessalonians 3:5).

Pray

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

1. In verses 13 to 16, what do we learn about the Thessalonian church?
2. Why do you think Paul is reminding the Thessalonians again about their response to the gospel during Paul's brief visit?
3. Looking at verses 17 to 20, how do we see Paul's affection for the Thessalonians?
4. What does it mean for the Thessalonians to be Paul's glory and joy?
5. What actions does Paul take in chapter 3 verses 1-5, due to not being able to see the Thessalonians face to face?
6. What do you think is motivating Paul to take this action?
7. What report does Paul receive from Timothy in verse 6?
8. What is Paul's response to this report?

9. In verses 11 to 13, what does Paul desire?
  
10. Why would Paul be desiring this?
  
11. As we see Paul's feelings and emotions towards the Thessalonians, how much of this should shape our feelings and emotions towards brothers and sisters in our church?
  
12. The hope of the gospel is a clear driving force for both Paul and the Thessalonians. What other hopes in our lives are filling us and distracting us from a deeper passion for the gospel having it's way in people's lives?
  
13. Seeing the gospel continue to transform each other through cheering others on, investing in others and praying for the priorities of God in each other's lives is vitally important. Why are we often reticent to do this? What might this say about where our true hopes might really lie?

Pray