

Anticipation

Living In Light Of Eternity

The Joy Of Investing In Others

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | April 13, 2025

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For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.

– 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (ESV)

Paul's Desire to Return to Thessalonica (Verse 17).

They are separated, like orphans.

It's a short separation.

It's as if he never left.

Paul is Prevented from Returning (verse 18).

Paul's Delight in the Thessalonians (verses 19-20).

The Joy of Investing in Others:

Serve Others as Serving Christ – Matthew 25:40

Celebrate Growth in Others – 3 John 4

Carry Burdens with Compassion – Galatians 6:2

Give Generously and Cheerfully – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Make Disciples and Multiply Your Faith – Matthew 28:19

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The Joy Of Investing In Others

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Discussion Questions | Jeff Randleman | April 13, 2025

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Why do you think Paul compares his separation from the Thessalonians to being “orphaned”? What does this metaphor reveal about his relationship with them?
2. In what ways does physical distance affect our spiritual relationships today? Can you think of a time when you felt close to someone in Christ, even when you were far apart?
3. How does Paul’s deep connection with the Thessalonians challenge or encourage us to pursue deeper relationships in our church?
4. Paul says Satan hindered him from returning. What are some ways you’ve seen opposition—spiritual or otherwise—interfere with ministry or relationships?
5. How do you discern whether an obstacle in your path is from God, Satan, or simply circumstance?
6. Paul calls the Thessalonians his “hope, joy, and crown.” What does this say about how he measured success or reward in ministry?
7. We ended the message by suggesting five ways you can find joy in investing in one another. For each of these five ways, ask yourself, “Who in my life can I serve this week as if I were serving Jesus?”
8. Ask yourself: “Who around me can I invest in? Who can I pray with? Encourage? Walk with?”
9. Ask yourself: “Who around me is struggling? How can I come alongside them?”
10. Ask yourself: “Where can I spend my time, my money, and my other resources and do so cheerfully?”
11. Ask yourself: “Who am I discipling? Who am I influencing spiritually?”