



## 1 Thessalonians - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 5 – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020: 1 Thessalonians 2.17-3,13 Intimidated or Inspired?

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2.17-3-13

1. Do you feel intimidated or inspired by Paul's attitude to and love for the church?

### **He's Intense:**

2. How do you relate to Paul's intense longing for his Christian brothers and sisters? (2.17)

**He's Ambitious and Exuberant:** *Paul calls the Thessalonians his glory, joy and crown (2.19-20). He is most exuberant when he sees spiritual growth, persevering faith and love in his brothers and sisters (3.8-9). He is most anxious when he is afraid they have lost their faith and love (3.5).*

3. What does Paul's example teach us about godly ambition and lasting joy?
4. How does Paul's example inspire you to change things in your life?

### **He goes beyond himself and his own suffering for the sake of others:** (3.7-13)

5. Why is it good for us to pray for and prioritize other people's needs even when we have our own struggles? (Also Acts 20.32-35)
6. How does this inspire you in the present circumstances of your life?

**He exercises Spiritual Discernment:** *Acts 16.6 and 1 Thessalonians 2.18 reveal two completely different spiritual forces that can stop our plans.*

7. Why is it so important that we learn how to exercise spiritual discernment when we make plans for our life?
8. Do you have Spirit-inspired hopes, dreams or plans that need to be re-started or kick-started following opposition from Satan?