

**Goldstone Church**  
**Small Group Questions**  
**1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:13**

**For Starting**

- If you invented an ice cream flavour, what ingredients would it have, and what would it be called?
- When do you feel the most courageous?
- Where do you find your inspiration to live a Christian life?
- What sticks out to you in this passage?

**For Reviewing**

- What prevented Paul from visiting Thessalonica (v.17-18)?
- What words did Paul use to describe the church (v.19-20)?
- Who did Paul send to Thessalonica in his place (v.1-3)? What were his 'qualifications'?
- What did Paul think had happened to the church (v.4-5)?
- Summarise the report that Paul had received about the church (v.6-9)?
- How often and for what did Paul pray for the church (v.10)?
- What did Paul want for the Thessalonian church (v.11-13)? Was a personal visit a realistic expectation?

**For Discussion**

- Paul preached through speaking and through example. Which would you say is more important today? Why?
- How would you describe a relationship where people are physically separated but united at the heart?
- When we are suffering, how does it help to know that others have suffered before you? Explain why.
- Looking back to the early years of being a Christian (or even now), what helped you the most to grow spiritually?
- Paul supported the church by praying for them. How do you think prayer makes a difference?
- Paul preached through speaking and by example. Which would you say is more important to today's church? Why?
- You could end by reading together 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:17 -3:13 (NIVUK)

<sup>17</sup> But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you – certainly I, Paul, did, again and again – but Satan stopped us. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

<sup>1</sup> So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. <sup>2</sup> We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow-worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no-one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. <sup>4</sup> In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

<sup>6</sup> But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.