

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 “The Greatest Value”

1. Torn away 17, 18

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

-Acts 17:10 ESV

- A. In Person
- B. Not in Heart
- C. Desire to be “face to face”
- D. Satan stopped them?

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. -John 10:10 ESV

2. Eternal Reward 19, 20

- A. Strange Questions 19
- B. The answer 20

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. -2 Corinthians 3:1-3 ESV

3. Sacrifice 3:1-5

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

-Romans 12:1-2 ESV

- A. Willing to be Grieved 1,2

- B. Not Hiding the Reality 3,4

- C. Paul needed to know 5

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. -1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 ESV

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ESV

Reflection:

1. *Have you ever viewed the church the way Paul does in this chapter? Who in the church in those moments fueled that view?*
2. *How does your participation in the church today make you a part of that reward that others see it as?*