

“The Pain of Separation” (1Thessalonians 2:17-20)

- A. Even a short separation is unpleasant (1Th. 2:17).**
- B. Satan blocked the reunion (1Th. 2:18).**
- C. Future reunion, rewards, and glory (1Th. 2:19-20).**

A. Even a short separation is unpleasant (2:17).

1. The separation was not voluntary – they were “taken away” – “having been bereft”

2. The separation was not long, but “a short while” & it was – “in person (face), not in spirit (heart).”

➤ Yet, Paul said that they, “were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.”

B. Satan blocked any planned reunion (2:18).

1. “For” Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know “we wanted to come to you” – all of the missionaries did, and he added,
2. “—I, Paul, more than once—” lit, “I, Paul, in fact both once and twice,” prob. mng. “repeatedly.” But something supernatural prevented the reunion happening:
3. “and yet Satan hindered us” or “thwarted us,” as the original NASB has it.

C. Future reunion, rewards, and glory (2:19-20).

1. (vs. 19a) Paul introduces the section with a question: “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation?” The word “hope” tips us off that this section is *forward* looking.
2. (vs. 19b) A rhetorical question answers the first question: “Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?” So the Thessalonians are the “hope,” “joy,” & “crown of exaltation” for the missionaries.

3. (vs. 20) That is effectively reiterated here:
“For you are our glory and joy.”