

## Dealing With Delayed Desires

1 Thess.2:17-20

### The Foundations of our Faith

- Have you ever had a strong goal or desire that was hindered, delayed or blocked? This brief life is full of long periods of waiting.
- Paul's thwarted desire was to revisit the Thessalonians. He expresses:
  - 1.) Emotional Pain: He felt himself "orphaned" and forcibly separated from them, v.17a.
  - 2.) Intense Passion: Note three words of passion in v.17. The last one, "great desire" is a word often used to describe our worldly lusts!
- Consider these three steps to take as we work through delayed desires.
  1. BUST yourself trying, v.18a
    - Paul was thwarted but not because of a lack of effort. He tried with all his might to revisit the Thessalonians.
  2. BATTLE the Devil, v18b
    - "Satan hindered us."
      - A. Satan put up a Roadblock
      - B. Satan works through People
  3. BEHOLD the Greatest Prize, v.19-20
    - Even if Paul never saw the Thessalonians again on earth, he would see them in heaven in the presence of Jesus, for they were his:
      - A. Hope!
      - B. Joy!
      - C. Crown!