

IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians



Scripture Reading:
1 THESSALONIANS
2:17 - 3:5



1 THESSALONIANS 2:17 – 3:5

But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:17 – 3:5

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? Indeed, you are our glory and joy. So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:17 – 3:5

For you know quite well that we are destined for them. 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. 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 had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

SATAN HATES YOUR FAITH.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2 – 5

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SATAN HATES YOUR FAITH.

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YOUR FAITH NEEDS FRIENDS.

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SATAN HATES YOUR FAITH.

YOUR FAITH NEEDS FRIENDS.

...but friendship's going to cost something.

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WHY?

OUR MOTIVATIONS HAVE TWO MASTERS.

Matthew 6: No one can serve two masters.
Either you will hate the one and love the other, or
you will be devoted to one and despise the other.

1) THE WAY OF IDOLATRY

2) THE WAY OF JESUS

1) THE WAY OF IDOLATRY

loving because of *“individualities”*

2) THE WAY OF JESUS

loving because of *an ideal*

WHAT'S BEARING THE WEIGHT?

**ROOT YOUR
CARE IN CHRIST**

1 THESSALONIANS 2:19 – 20

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? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

Within this Christian vision of marriage, here's what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of what God is creating, and to say, "I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, 'I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!'"

**ROOT YOUR
CARE IN CHRIST**

SATAN HATES YOUR FAITH.

YOUR FAITH NEEDS FRIENDS...

**...WHO ROOT THEIR CARE
IN CHRIST.**

ROOT YOUR CARE IN CHRIST...

**... AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE THE
FAITH OF YOUR FRIENDS.**

1 THESSALONIANS 3:5

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 had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

JESUS
IS THE BETTER FRIEND.

