

# Sermon Discussion Guide

*Longing for Your Crown*

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

## Family longing (17-18a)

- What is the significance of the phrase “torn away from you”?
- How would you summarize what Paul longs for from these verses?
- Additional passages:
  - The reason for Paul’s desire – 1 Thess 3:5, 10
  - In person, not in heart – 1 Cor 5:3; 2 Cor 5:12; Col 2:5
- How does his longing for face-to-face time with them challenge some of our attitudes and habits in regards to being with other believers?

The applications from the sermon were

  1. Seek to be present with other believers
  2. Seek to be present when you are with other believers

## Enemy opposition (18b)

- What are some of the things that we do not know from this short phrase?
- What can we be certain of?
- An excellent resource on this topic is the 2-part audio by David Powlison entitled “Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare.”
  - <https://ibcd.org/2387/power-encounters-reclaiming-spiritual-warfare-part-1/>
  - <https://ibcd.org/2388/power-encounters-reclaiming-spiritual-warfare-part-2/>
- The 3 points in regards to Satan’s work are
  1. We have a real enemy (1 Pet 5:8-9)
  2. We have other enemies (Eph 2:1-3; 6:12; 1 Jn 2:16-17)
  3. Our enemies are under God’s sovereign control (Gen 50:20; Job 1-2)
- How does an awareness of Satan’s opposition help us as we seek to love others?

## Anticipated reward (19-20)

- What context does Paul have in mind in verse 19?
- What type of “crown” is he speaking of?
- Additional passages on Paul’s use of boasting: 1 Cor 1:28-3; Gal 6:11-15; 2 Cor 1:12-14; Phil 4:1
- How does seeing other believers as part of our salvation reward change our priorities? How does it change how we love and interact with other people?

## Conclusion

- In what ways does this glimpse of Paul’s love for the Thessalonians reflect God’s love for us?
  - See also Hebrews 12:2; Ps 2:8; Isa 53:12; John 13:1; 17:20-26