

# STUDY 4: STANDING FIRM IN THE LORD

## Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:13

We've come to the heart of Paul's letter. From these beautiful and emotional verses we learn Paul's reason for writing and, gain an insight into his love and longing for the Thessalonians. In so doing we catch a glimpse of the eternal love and longing Jesus has for His people, His church

1. Discuss Paul's language; how it conveys his love for the Thessalonians and his desire to be with them.
2. Paul tried again and again to be with them. Who hindered him? Who's in control here? Discuss.
3. Paul dispatches Timothy to Thessalonica. What is his assignment? Discuss and sum it up in one sentence.
4. Paul writes in 3:3, 'For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.' (ESV). Destined for what? Discuss. Are we similarly destined? Discuss.
5. In 3:6 we learn that Timothy has returned to Paul. What brings Paul comfort? From 3:6 – 4:1 discuss what 'standing firm in the Lord' looks like.

### DEEP IN PRAYER

Pray for one another using 3:11 – 13 as the template.

Note the 2 key goals 'may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all', and 'so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father'.

This is God's desire for us and a prayer we are confident He will answer.