



1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:10

The Pastor's Heart

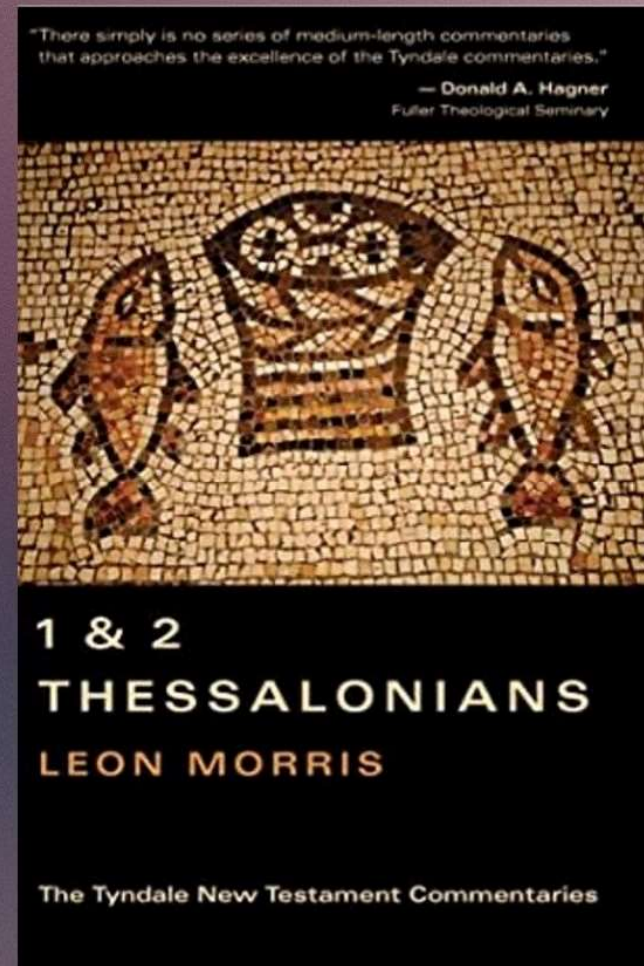
Slides from Peter Grainger's sermon at the
induction service for John Percival
Saturday 3rd February 2014

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



I Thessalonians

Here we catch a glimpse of Paul the man in a way that we do not always do when he is taken up with questions of more profound theological significance.





1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:10

The Pastor's Heart

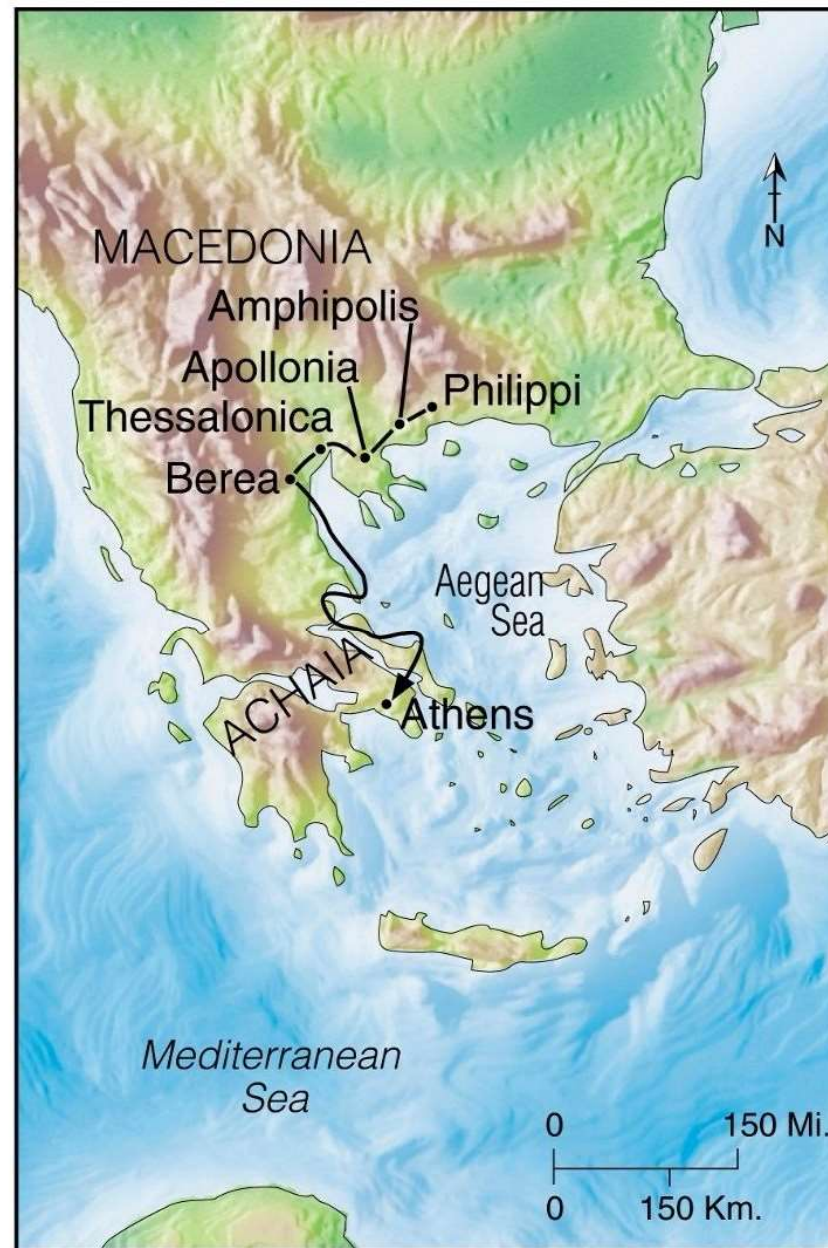
1. Intense Longing

1 Thess 2:17-20

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

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. 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.







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.

1 Thessalonians 2:17

1. Intense Longing (2:17-20)



A **traumatic separation** (Acts 17:5-10) – “torn away”

- Paul the “**mother**”

*“we were gentle like a **mother** caring for her little children” (1 Thess 2:7)*

1. Intense Longing (2:17-20)



A **traumatic separation** (Acts 17:5-10) – “torn away”

- Paul the “**mother**”

“we were gentle like a mother caring for her little children” (1 Thess 2:7)

- Paul the “**father**”

*“we dealt with each of you as a **father** deals with his own children” (1 Thess 2:11)*

1. Intense Longing (2:17-20)

A **traumatic separation** (Acts 17:5-10) – “torn away”

- Paul the “**mother**”

“we were gentle like a mother caring for her little children” (1 Thess 2:7)

- Paul the “**father**”

“we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children” (1 Thess 2:11)

- Paul the “**brother**”

(1 Thess 2:17; 3:7)

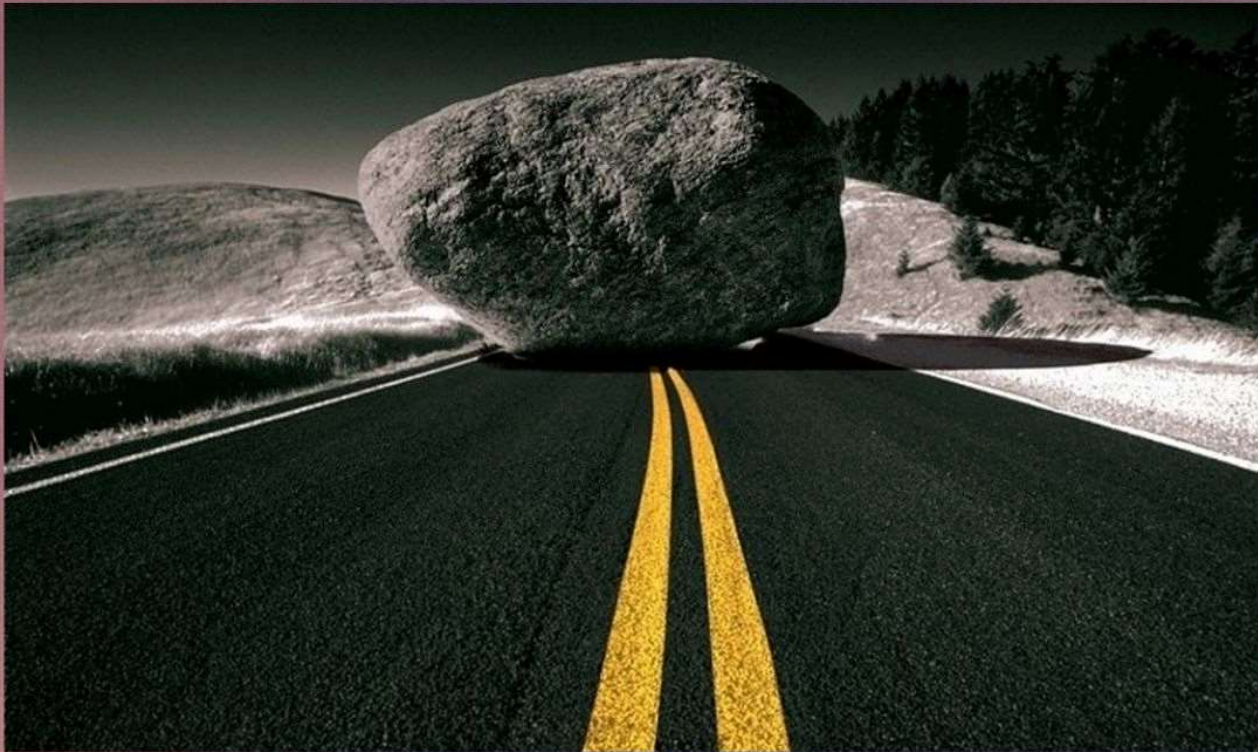
1. Intense Longing (2:17-20)



A deep desire

- to see them again

“...out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you” (1 Thess 2:17)



For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us.

1 Thessalonians 2:18



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.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

2. Unbearable Anxiety

1 Thess 3:1-5

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

But, 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. 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.

2. Unbearable Anxiety (3:1-5)



Two reasons for sending Timothy to the Thessalonians:

- “to strengthen and encourage you in your faith”
(1 Thess 3:2)

2. Unbearable Anxiety (3:1-5)

Two reasons for sending Timothy to the Thessalonians:

- “to find out about your faith”

“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 might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.” (1 Thess 3:5)

Philippians 1:6 NIV
being confident of this,
that he who began a good work in you
will carry it on to completion
until the day of Christ Jesus



Philippians 4:6-7



Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation,
through prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.
And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.



3. Overwhelming Joy

1 Thess 3:6-11

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.



GOOD NEWS!

But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love.

1 Thessalonians 3:6

3. Overwhelming Joy (3:6-11)



“Good news” from Thessalonica –

- about their love

“He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.” (1 Thess 3:6)

3. Overwhelming Joy (3:6-11)



“Good news” from Thessalonica –

- about their **faith**

“Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.” (1 Thess 3:7-8)

1 Thessalonians 3:9

How can we thank God enough
for you in return for all the **joy**
we have in the presence of our
God because of you?

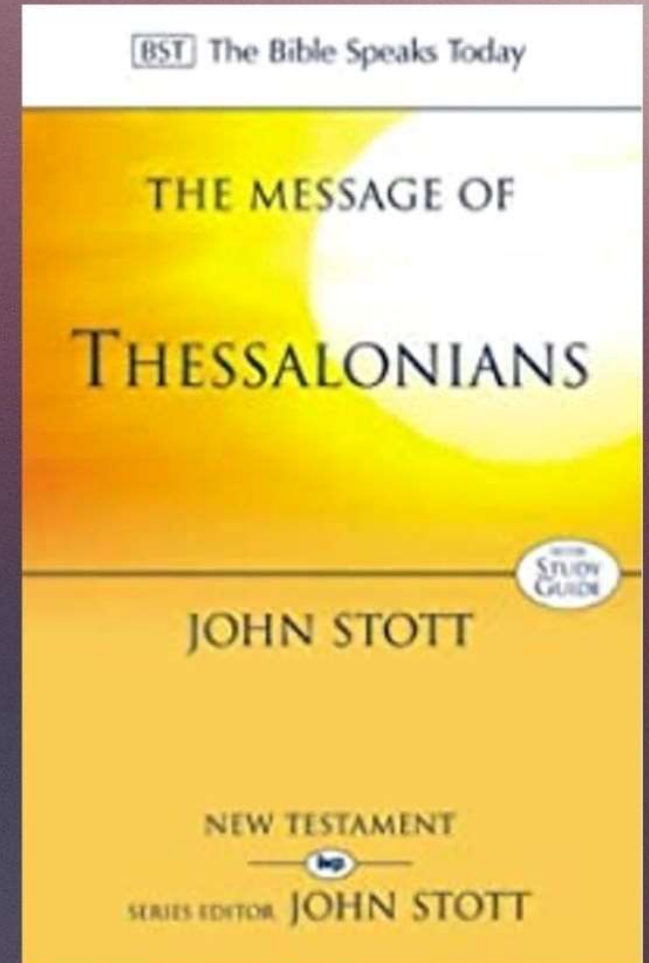
THANKS!

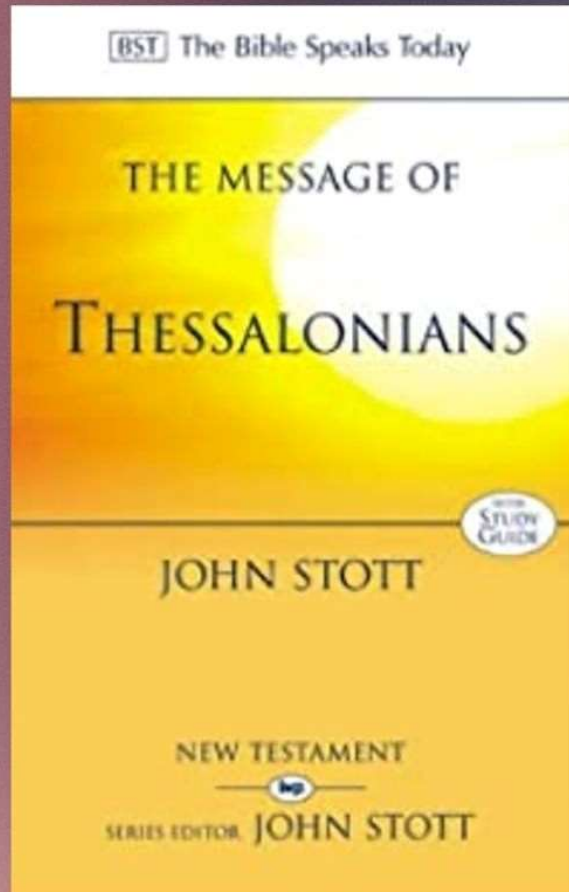


Night and day we pray most
earnestly that we may see you
again and supply what is lacking
in your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:10

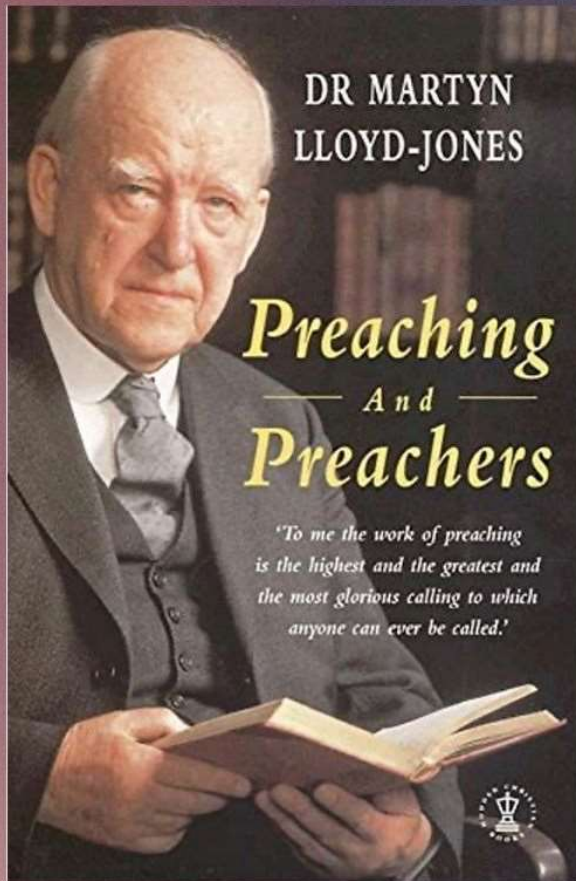
What is this extravagant language I have sometimes asked myself? What is this loving and longing; this intolerable suspense when there was no news and this overwhelming joy when the news was good; this affectionate care and fervent prayer; this sense of intimate solidarity with them, so that his life was wrapped up in their life and theirs in his?





My answer is that it is the language of parents, who are separated from their children, who miss them dreadfully, and are profoundly anxious when they have had no recent news of them.

Pastoral love is parental love; that is its quality.



“Our Lord looked out upon the multitude and saw them as sheep without a shepherd, and was filled with compassion. And if you know nothing of this you should not be in a pulpit, for this is certain to come out in your preaching.”

The presence of more than 800,000 Scots—17 percent of the population—who report they have confessed Jesus as Saviour and have made a commitment to him that is still important in their life today—even though nearly half of them do not currently attend church.



Final Prayer

May the Lord make our love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.

May he strengthen our hearts so that we will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Amen