

Blocked, But Not Beaten

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

9.6.26

1. What emotions do you see in Paul's words in verses 17–20? What does this tell us about the kind of relationship Paul had with the Thessalonian believers?
2. Paul says he was “taken away from you for a short time in person, not in spirit.” What does this teach us about Christian fellowship and genuine love for other believers?
3. In verse 18, Paul says, “Satan hindered us.” What are some ways Satan seeks to hinder the work of God and the ministry of His people?
4. How should we respond when something we believe God has called us to do is blocked or interrupted? What can we learn from Paul's response?
5. Can you think of a time when something that appeared to be a setback was actually something God used for His purposes? What did you learn through that experience?
6. Paul did not allow Satan's opposition to make him quit. What helps a believer remain faithful when ministry, family, work, or life becomes difficult?
7. In verses 19–20, Paul speaks about the Thessalonians being his “hope or joy or crown of boasting.” What does this teach us about the eternal value of investing in people spiritually?
8. Who are some people God has allowed you to influence spiritually? How can you intentionally invest more in those relationships?
9. Paul looked beyond present difficulties to Christ's return. How should the certainty of Christ's return change the way we view present disappointments and obstacles?
10. What is one area of your life where you feel “blocked” right now? How can you respond in faith rather than becoming discouraged or defeated?