

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD'S WORD IS AT WORK IN US?
PART 2: We will have ETERNALLY REWARDING RELATIONSHIPS now
1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

- I. **REVIEW: THE THESSALONIANS WELCOME OF THE WORD BROUGHT TEMPORAL SUFFERING** from their own people, just like Jewish believers received from theirs (14-16)

- II. **THE THESSALONIANS WELCOME OF THE WORD BROUGHT ETERNALLY REWARDING RELATIONSHIPS: As Paul defends himself, we gain a picture of his heart toward these believers (17-20)**
 - A. As Paul defends himself, he reveals **they greatly desired to see them out a genuine loving parental spiritual concern, but were thwarted by Satan (18)**
 - 1. Having been ripped away from them like a parent orphaned from his child, **they greatly desired to see them (17)**

 - 2. They wanted to come twice **but Satan thwarted them (18)**

 - B. Paul shares **WHY they so greatly desired to see them... (19-20)**
 - 1. **...because these Thessalonian believers were their future hope, joy and reward** in the Lord's presence when He comes (19)

 - 2. **...because these Thessalonian believers were their present prized possession**, their spiritual pride and joy (20)