

(Bible used = NIV 1984 translation)

Way in: As a group, think of ten words which describe a good Christian parent!

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 3: 13

Question 1. In verse 2: 19 Paul writes that he (and Silas/Timothy) will receive ‘glory’, not directly from his own personal faith, but from how the new converts in Thessalonica are living out their new faith.

- a. What implications, if any, does this have for us today?
- b. What might it say about the care needed, both as a church and as individual Christians, as to which organisations and individuals we support for ‘mission’? What guidelines would you use in your decisions?

Question 2. In the opening verses of chapter 3 Paul seems to be demonstrating ‘spiritual parenthood’ to the Thessalonian believers.

- a. What experiences do you have or remember of the ‘adolescent’ stage of spiritual growth?
- b. Was anything missing at that time which in hindsight would have been advantageous had it been supplied?
- c. What reasons might there be for spiritual parents to sometimes be reluctant to allow their children to grow up?

Question 3. Throughout this passage Paul has no difficulty expressing his deep love for the Thessalonian believers, which must have been a huge encouragement to them when they read this letter.

- a. It is not unusual to have difficulty expressing love. Why is this?
- b. What ideas from this passage can help you become better at expressing love?

Question 4. Many of us are involved with our family and friends in their faith journey, the ups and the downs.

- a. What, if anything, does this involvement bring to you?
- b. Do you find this encouraging or challenging?