**Longing for Community**

“Seeking every opportunity to gather together as a church.”

**Text**: **1 Thessalonians 2:17-20**, “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, **18**because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. **19**For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20**For you are our glory and joy.” **English Standard Version**

*Seeking every opportunity requires you to*…

**Point #1**: **Make** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **v.17**

*Seeking every opportunity requires you to*…

**Point #2**: **Be** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **v.18**

*Seeking every opportunity requires you to*…

**Point #3**: **Look** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.19-20**

**Corollary Verses**: Acts 17:5-10; Philippians 1:7-8; Acts 2:42-46; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 4:4; and 1 Peter 5:8.

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1.) **Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26**. Paul displayed an overwhelming emotional desire to physically be present with the Thessalonians. Why is it so important to gather together as believers? What are the practical benefits for both the individual and the congregation when they gather together?

2.) **Read Acts 2:42-47**. Obviously we are not called to sell all of our possessions and go to live in a commune out in the desert, but what kind of gatherings can we participate in on a weekly basis that would cultivate our relationships with one another?

3.) In **Verse 18** Paul blamed Satan for hindering and stopping him from returning to the church at Thessalonica. What are some of the roadblocks that stop you from attending church regularly? And how can you avoid them?

4.) **Read Matthew 6:19-21**. As a missionary Paul planted the church at Thessalonica. His role as a church-planter was to minister to the congregation by preaching the gospel and teaching the eternal truths of Jesus Christ. At the second coming of Christ he will be rewarded for his ministry to the body. In what ways do you minister (serve) to the body? Does this bring you great joy and do you know that you too will be rewarded?