



I THESSALONIANS

Part Twenty Two: “What To Do When You’d Rather Be Somewhere Else”

I Thessalonians 3:1-2

Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

Observations on this part of Paul’s Second Missionary Journey:

- 1) These verses, along with Acts 17:10-18:5, help us to piece together the Thessalonica/Berea/Athens/Corinth part of Paul’s journey.
 1. Paul leaves Berea, while Silas and Timothy stay. Acts 17:14.
 2. Some of the brethren take Paul to Athens. Acts 17:15.
 3. When they arrive at Athens, Paul sends these brethren back to Berea bearing a letter to Silas and Timothy telling them to come to Athens. Acts 17:15.
 4. While Paul waits for them to arrive at Athens, he teaches in the synagogue and the market place. Acts 17:16-17.
 5. Silas and Timothy arrive in Athens, and Paul sends them back to Macedonia: Timothy went to Thessalonica, and perhaps Silas did too, though it is more likely that he went somewhere else in Macedonia, perhaps Berea, which is why Acts 18:5 refers to the entire region. I Thess. 3:1-2.
 6. Paul continues in Athens (I Thess. 3:1), then he proceeds to Corinth. Acts 17:33-18:1.
 7. Silas and Timothy return from Macedonia and reunite with Paul at Corinth. Acts 18:5.
- 2) I Thessalonians 2:17-18 tells us what is going on in Paul’s mind and heart while he is in Berea and Athens.
- 3) While Paul was preaching one of his most famous sermons, he would have preferred to be in Thessalonica.

What To Do When You Are Forced To Be Somewhere You Would Rather Not Be

- 1) Care about people where you are. Acts 17:16.
- 2) Represent Christ where you are. Acts 17:17-18.
- 3) Obey God where you are. Acts 17:19-22.



Preparation for Prayer

James 5:16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*