

## **Very Fond Memories**

1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 4:12

by Don Falkos

copyright 2018 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Paul had moved on to Athens. He had only been away from Thessalonica for a short time, but he desperately wished to go back, to visit the assembly of believers he had founded there, and to teach them whatever else they needed to know to live godly lives. Paul was very proud of these people. Their growth in the Lord brought him immense hope and great joy. He tried time and time again to visit them, but his plans were always foiled.

Finally, when Paul couldn't bear it any longer, he and Silas stayed in Athens and sent Timothy to Thessalonica to strengthen and encourage the believers in their faith. They were still suffering constant persecution, and Paul feared they may have been tempted away from the faith.

Timothy went to Thessalonica, spent some time there, and then rejoined Paul, who by that time had moved on to Corinth. Timothy brought good news of the believers standing firm in the Lord, remaining strong in their faith, and growing in love. He also brought a message from the Thessalonian assembly. "We have very fond memories of your visit and long to see you again just as much as you long to see us."

Paul prayed earnestly and often for the believers in Thessalonica. "Father God, Lord Jesus, take me to see them again soon. Make their love for one another and for everyone else grow to overflowing. Help them to avoid sexual immorality of any kind. Guide them to live quiet lives that speak volumes to those around them who are not believers. Make them blameless as they stand before you, Father, when Jesus our Lord comes again with all his holy ones."