

# Propellers

“Captivated!” — 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

January 30/31  
from Pastor Jeff McNicol

**Question of the week:** What has something that has captivated you this week?

**Pathway to Life:** Has anyone had an opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation with an unbeliever, or share your faith this week? Describe what happened.

**Prayer:** Ask God to transform you by the renewing of your minds in this time (Romans 12:2).

**Introduction:** Being a disciple and making disciples comes at a great cost. The apostle Paul went through all types of trials in his pursuit of Jesus and advancing the gospel. And yet he experienced deep joy. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13 together and discuss the following questions about what captivates our hearts.

## Revisit the Sermon:

### 1. Longing for fellowship (2:17-20)

Not everyone is naturally energized by relationships. There are introverts and extroverts. Some people love large gatherings, and others enjoy smaller groups of intimate friendships. And for some it's a discipline to connect with others at all because their tendency is to be alone.

- Do relationships come naturally to you, or do they feel like they take work? What contexts are you most and least comfortable in when relating to others (large group, small group, one on one, etc.)?
- How does Paul describe his feelings for the Thessalonians in verses 17-20? Have you ever felt this way about people? If so, what is your relationship to them?
- In all of 1 Thessalonians Paul uses 'family' verbiage. Do you think that is intentional? Why?

### 2. Encouraging in trial (3:1-5)

- Has there ever been a time when someone inconvenienced themselves to help you? Describe what happened. How did that affect you?
- In v.2 Paul says he is going to send Timothy to “strengthen and encourage” them in their faith. What does that mean? Why is it important that Timothy is present with the Thessalonians for it to happen?
- What practical ways can your Small Group strengthen and encourage each other in the faith? What about people outside your group? Unbelievers?

### 3. Rejoicing in growth (3:6-9)

- In what ways do you see the kingdom of God advancing today?
- Does your Small Group have a bridge into the community where you can show and tell the love of Christ? Do you believe that is an important part of growing in your faith? How can you be more intentional about advancing the gospel as a Small Group?

### 4. Praying for progress (3:10-13)

If your Small Group has already established ways to display and declare the gospel together, pray now that God would strengthen that relationship in the community.

If you haven't determined practical ways to make a kingdom investment together, pause now and pray that God would give you a clear mission, people, or organization to begin a relationship with for the glory of God.

**Conclusion:** Our love for others, concern for spiritual growth, and willingness to invest in making disciples increases when we are *captivated* by what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ —“He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us” (Rom 8:32).

***Pray that God would give you courage to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.***