

Daily Devotion For September 25, 2022

17 But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. I Thessalonians 2:17

After church today, Sherry and I will be making our way to Orange County to see some friends. We hope to see Pat and Shirley Wong tomorrow as well as other friends. It has been a long time since Sherry has visited Orange County and she will be seeing some friends from church that she grew up with and are like family to her. During Covid, Sherry was supposed to be a bridesmaid for Tracie Hara but because of the pandemic the wedding was held with just family members.

In a similar sense, Paul had an "intense longing" to see the Thessalonians (v. 17). They were like family to him. He'd already spoken of himself as both mother and father to the young church (vv. 7-8, 11-12). Now he referred to their separation with the word "orphaned," which in Greek can mean not only children who've lost their parents but also parents who've lost their children.

Thought For Today: Among other consequences, the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant barriers to being together. Now, that the country is opening up, we are glad to enjoy face to face fellowship that was not possible just a short few months ago. Any plans to visit family or friends you have not seen for awhile? While you may not be able to see them face to face you can still remember them before the Lord in prayer.

Today's Prayer Focus: Who comes to mind that you would like to see but because of circumstances it has been impossible. Remember them today in prayer. Continued prayers for those in need of God's strengthening and healing touch.

Note: Next devotion will be after Sherry and I return from Orange County on October 2nd.