



Paul's Eager Devotion

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

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But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

Main Point

Paul was deeply devoted to the Thessalonians and was greatly encouraged to hear of their perseverance and was eager to see them grow in their faith.

The background is a faded map of the Czech Republic. Overlaid on the map are several text elements: 'Dep. M. Dvorní' in the top left, 'L. LIMBER STALJEM' in the top center, 'Dep. M. Dvorní' in the top right, 'Dep. M. Dvorní' in the middle right, 'Národní technické' in the bottom right, and 'VIGTK, v. v. i.' in the bottom center. The main text is centered over the map.

Paul's Eager Devotion

The encouragement Paul received from them.

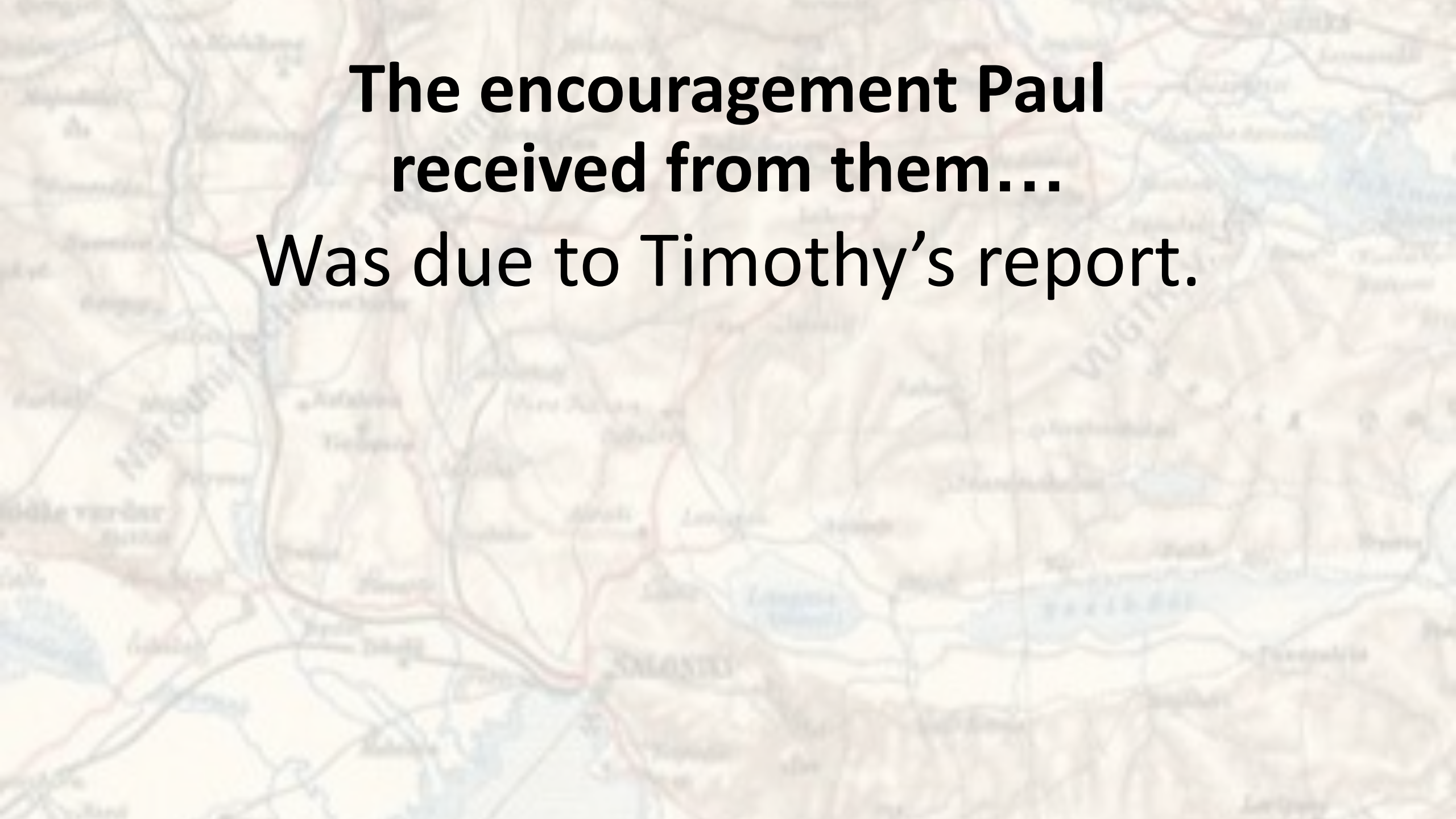
1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

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affliction **we were comforted about you** through your faith;
for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.



**The encouragement Paul
received from them...
Was due to Timothy's report.**

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

But **now that Timothy has come to us from you**, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction **we were comforted about you** through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

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But now that **Timothy** has come to us from you, and has

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for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer,
I also sent to find out about your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has

brought us **good news of *your faith*** and love, and that you

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for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

In a very real and practical sense, Paul's life was bound up with these believers such that their spiritual condition impacted his soul.

We know what encouraged Paul
in respect to his relationships;
what encourages you in respect
to your relationships?



The encouragement Paul received from them...

Was due to Timothy's report.

**Was in relation to sufferings
(theirs and his).**

1 Thessalonians 3:1-3 and 5

Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

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But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long

to see you, for this reason, brethren, **in all our distress and *tribulation*** we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

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tribulation ***we were encouraged* about you
through your faith;**

for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

Paul understood the communal nature of Christian suffering and the communal blessings of comfort that come when believers walk with one another and care for one another in tribulation.

2 Corinthians 1:5-7

For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance,
so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation;
or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is
effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which
we also suffer; and our hope for you is firmly grounded,
knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings,
so also you are sharers of our comfort.

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; and our hope for you is firmly grounded,
knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings,
so also you are sharers of our comfort.

The content of our mutual encouragement matters with respect to our endurance and perseverance, especially when tribulation comes.

Paul's Eager Devotion

The encouragement Paul received from them.

The eagerness Paul had
toward them.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

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**The eagerness Paul
had toward them...**

Was rooted in his devotion to them.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer,
I also sent to find out about your faith...

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, **when I could endure it no longer,**
I also sent to find out about your faith...

1 Thessalonians 3:6-7

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and tribulation we were comforted about you through your faith.

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also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and tribulation we were comforted about you through your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep praying most earnestly
that we may see your face...

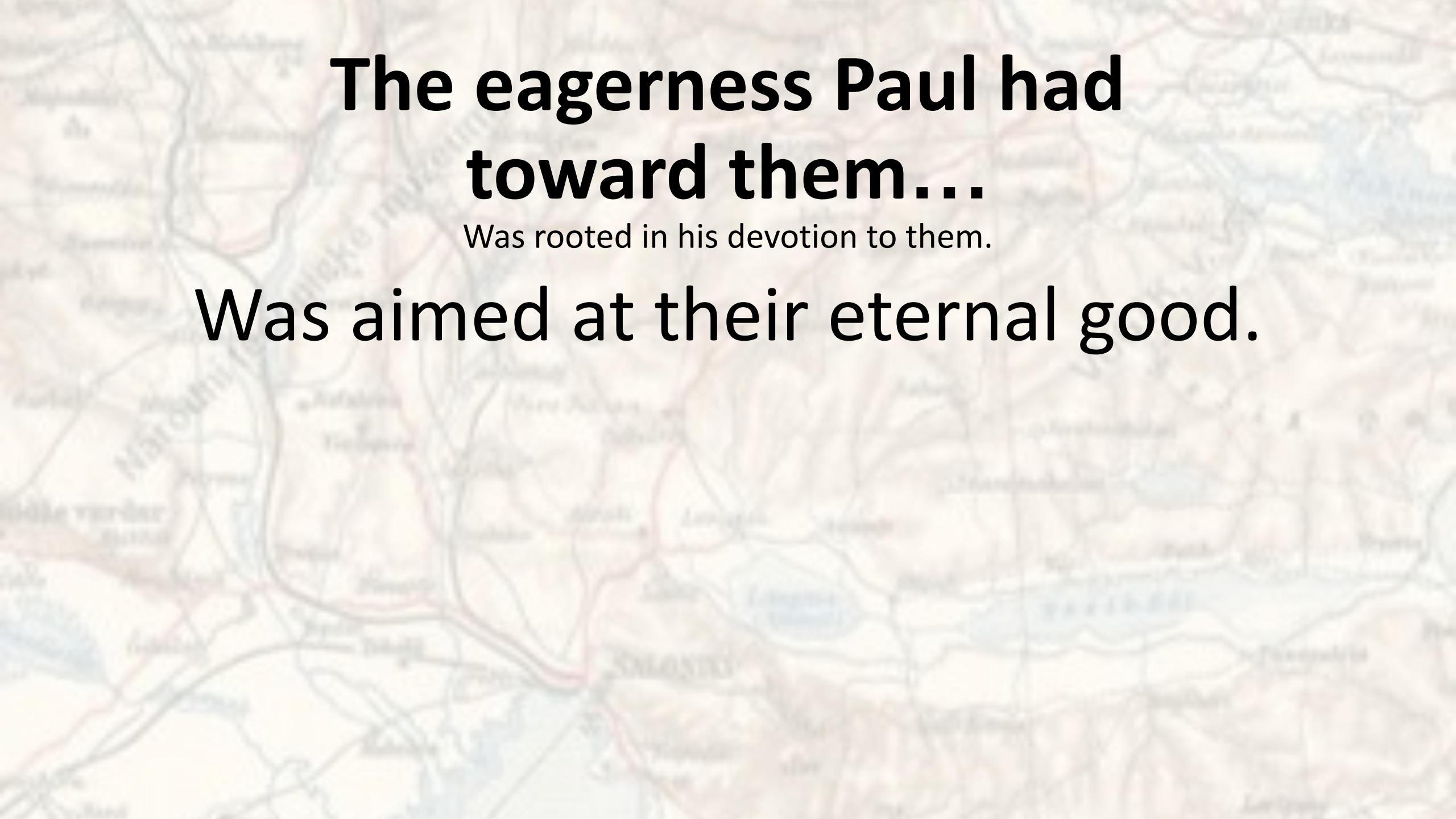
1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep praying **most earnestly**
that we may see your face...

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep praying ***hyper*** earnestly
that we may see your face...

Paul was deeply devoted to this church, but his love for them went well beyond temporal concern and looked to the eternal.



**The eagerness Paul had
toward them...**

Was rooted in his devotion to them.

Was aimed at their eternal good.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer,
I also sent to find out about your faith,
for fear that the tempter might have tempted you,
and our labor would be in vain.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer,
I also sent to find out about your faith,

**for fear that the tempter might have tempted you,
and our labor would be in vain.**

1 Thessalonians 3:8

...for now we *really* live,
if you stand firm in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:8

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if you stand firm in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:8

...for now we *really* live,

if ***you stand firm*** in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:8

...for now we *really* live,

if *you stand firm* in the Lord.

Paul understood what was at stake and encouraged and exhorted them in keeping with his aim to protect their eternal souls.

Matthew 10:28

Do not fear those who kill the body
but are unable to kill the soul;
but rather fear Him who is able to destroy
both soul and body in hell.

What is the nature of your deepest concerns for those you love?

How would your interactions change if your greatest concern was for their eternal well-being?

Paul's Eager Devotion

The encouragement Paul received from them.

The eagerness Paul had toward them.

The entreaties Paul made for them.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

as we night and day keep praying most earnestly

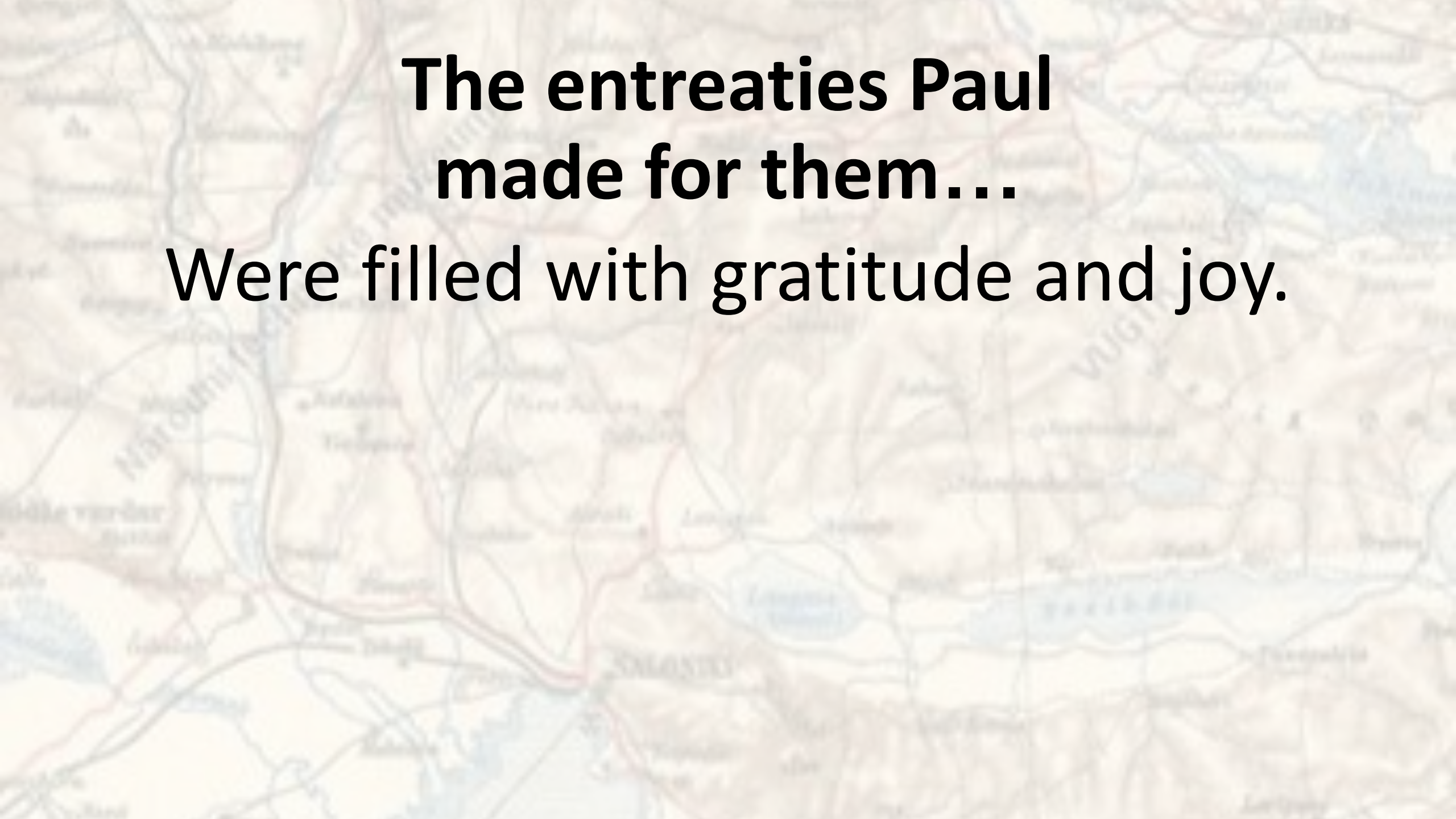
that we may see your face,
and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

as we night and day keep *entreating* most earnestly

that we may see your face,
and may complete what is lacking in your faith?



**The entreaties Paul
made for them...**

Were filled with gratitude and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you
in return for all the joy with which we rejoice
before our God on your account?

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For **what thanks can we render to God** for you

in return for all the joy with which we rejoice
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For what thanks can we render to God for you

in return for all the joy with which we rejoice
before our God on your account?

Psalm 116:12

What shall I render to the LORD
For all His benefits toward me?

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you

in return for all the joy with which we rejoice
before our God on your account?

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

For what thanks can we render to God for you

in return for all the joy **with which we rejoice**
before our God on your account?

If we understand the power
and goodness of God, gratitude
and joy will sit underneath
all our prayers and petitions,
and we will choose to rejoice.



The entreaties Paul made for them...

Were filled with gratitude and joy.

Were aimed at their growth in faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has

brought us **good news of your faith and love.**

Paul understood the connection
between Christian faith and love.

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision
means anything, but **faith working through love.**

For this reason, Paul made their growth in faith his primary concern.

1 Thessalonians 3:2, 5, and 7

We sent Timothy...to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith.

I also sent to find out about your faith...

We were comforted about you through your faith...

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep praying most earnestly
that we may see your face,
and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep praying most earnestly
that we may see your face,

**and may complete what is
lacking in your faith?**

What was lacking?

Paul understood that growth in *faith* would mean growth in *faithfulness*.

In other words, faith works itself out in love; so Paul aimed his prayers at their growth in faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep **praying** most earnestly
that we may see your face,
and **may complete what is lacking in your faith?**

Conclusion

What encourages you in respect
to your concern for others?

Is your devotion to others leading you
to labor for their eternal good?

Are your prayers for others aimed
at their growth in faith?