

From the Pastor's Desk

"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. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy" (1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 NIV).

If we didn't know Paul as well as we do, we might be tempted to view his anguish over being separated from the church as insincere hyperbole and not as a genuine expression of his heart. Paul had such an intense longing to visit the church in Thessalonica that it took a power as great as the devil to thwart his plans.

Where did this intensity come from? It came from his own deep and vital union with Jesus himself. This kind of pastoral concern comes from the Lord himself. Paul makes that clear in Philippians 1:8 (ESV): "God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Paul's anguish at being separated from the church and his passionate longing to see them face to face was put into his heart by Jesus Christ. It is a reflection, a shadowy reflection at best, of the deep affection of the Father, which compelled him to send the Son, and the deep affection of the Son which compelled Him to be lifted up on a cross, to give his life as the payment for our sin. Why did He do this? "...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2 ESV). We are that joy.

As Paul longed to see the church, we long to see you again. The good news is that the country is slowly beginning to re-open. But that doesn't mean we're ready to open right away. We can't just flip the lights back on and pick up where we left off. But even though we are weeks away from re-opening, we want you to know that we have begun to make preparations. In the meantime, let's continue to connect with the Lord in worship and devotion, with one another in fellowship, prayer and Bible study, with our family and neighbors, and with those in need. Remember, the church is not a place you go to; it's a family you belong to. So, belong!!!

We've prepared some wonderful services for this weekend. Please share them with your friends and family.

Spanish Service (9:00 AM): "The Key to Understanding the Gospel" Acts 19:1-10 Pastor Adolfo Ocampo  
Watch Live at [www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775/](http://www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775/)

Chinese Service (11:00 AM): "Harmony in Christ" Romans 14:1-23 Pastor Shih Wei Chiang  
Watch Live at [www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/](http://www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/)

English Service (11:00 AM): "There's No Place Like Home" Mark 6:1-13 Pastor Gary Domiano  
Watch Live at [www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/](http://www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/)

Finally, because we value your feedback, we have prepared a simple survey to help us know how to provide the best possible spiritual care for the FBCF family. Just follow the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PcmnNVI1yr0IgmFCDzkX04wRKJ12QehR1xKPkINLUH8/edit?ts=5eb7166a>

Choosing Faith Over Fear,  
Pastor Gary  
Mark 4:40