

# JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!

Where is Your Focus?

I Thessalonians 2:17-20

## Introduction

1. How critical is focus in your life? Consider what happens when people focus on their cell phones instead of on their driving. The National Safety Council says people who focus on their cell phones while driving are involved in 1.6 million crashes each year.
2. Christians, we face a bigger problem than distracted driving. It is what I call “**distracted living.**” **Distracted living takes place when we take our eyes off the Lord and begin focusing on all this world has to offer.**
  - My goal today is to help us refocus by examining the life focus of the Apostle Paul.

I Thessalonians 2:17-20 - *But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you--I, Paul, again and again--but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.*

## Paul's Focus

1. The Apostle faced evil opposition to his ministry. Vs. 17-18
  - He was forced to leave Thessalonica prematurely. Vs. 17
  - He experienced heartache during his absence. Vs. 17
  - He was hindered by Satan. Vs. 18
  - He was misunderstood by the Thessalonian believers. Vs. 18
2. The Apostle focused on an eternal outlook in his ministry. Vs. 19-20
  - He focused on eternal values. Rom. 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

- He focused on his living hope: Jesus Christ. Vs. 19
- He focused on their eternal reunion. Vs. 19
- He focused on eternal rewards. Vs. 20, Mt. 6:19-21 - *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Where is your focus?

1. If you are still focused on yourself and what this world has to offer, you need to turn your focus away from sin and trust Christ as your Savior and Lord.
2. If you are a follower of Christ, He is to be the primary focus of your life.
  - Write down your commitment to live for Him and then renew that commitment every morning as you start your day. Refocus daily!
  - Limit or eliminate anything that is drawing your attention away from Christ.

**"We get our moral bearings by looking at God.  
We must begin with God."** – A.W. Tozer