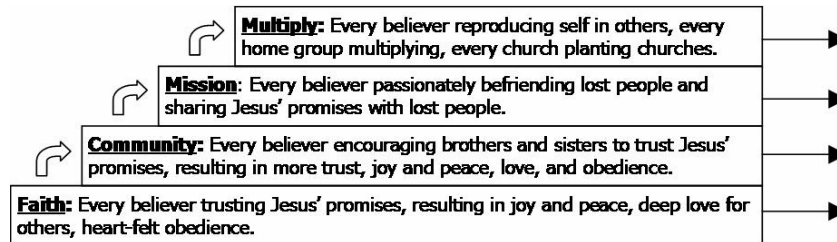


# Filling our City with the Gospel: Community

## 1 Thessalonians 2:17—3:5 — October 11, 2009



### How did Paul feel toward the Thessalonians?

Paul had an unquenchable longing to fellowship with them, no matter what the cost.

### Why did Paul feel this way?

Because his eternal joy in Jesus would be increased because they were in heaven.

### What does fellowship *now* have to do with them being in heaven in *the future*?

God uses our fellowship to strengthen their faith so they will go to heaven.  
Hebrews 3:12-14

(Also study Colossians 1:22-23; James 5:19-20.)

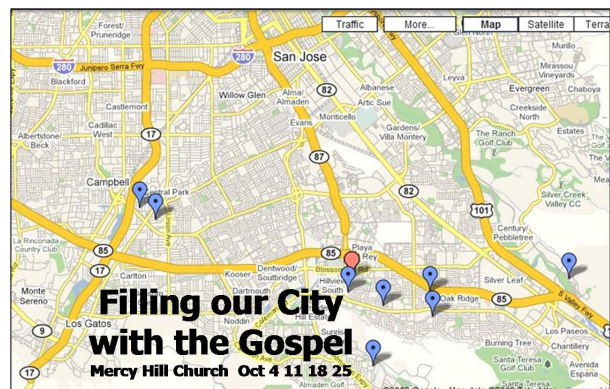
### What does this mean for us?

Understand how crucial fellowship is.

Focus your fellowship on faith in Jesus.

Consider what lesser priorities need to be dropped.

Anticipate and resist Satan's hindrances — and pursue fellowship with others.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

On a scale of 0 (no longing) to 10 (unquenchable longing no matter what the cost) how strongly do you long to fellowship with others? Why is your longing this strong or this weak?

Has there been a time in your life when your longing for fellowship was unusually strong? What contributed to this? How did God use this?

How does it affect you to think that your eternal joy in Jesus will be increased because of others who are in heaven with you? If this doesn't affect you much — why do you think that's the case?

Does it make sense to you that our fellowship is crucial if our brothers and sisters are going to continue in faith and go to heaven? Why or why not?

What are some lesser priorities Jesus is telling you to say "no" to?

What are some ways Satan has been hindering your fellowship? What can you do about that?

What's your take-away from this passage? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

