1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 6

3:1-5

Your **memory verses** for this week and next are 3:11-13.

Read through chapter 3 before beginning. Ask God to prepare your heart to respond to what you learn with obedience and trust.

1. **Verse 1 begins with *therefore*. As good Bible students we need to ask, “What is the therefore there for?” In other words, what previous thought is the author connecting with what he says here? See 2:17-20.**
2. **What action did Paul take when he could “endure it no longer”? (v. 1-2**)
3. **What was Timothy’s mission in going to the Thessalonians (v. 2-5)?**
4. **Define *strengthen* and *encourage (Use bible study tools)*.**

**Strengthen:**

**Encourage:**

1. **Though the Thessalonians had turned away from their idols and were serving God, their faith was still very young and tender, and Paul knew the importance of continuing to nurture them with the word. From his life and writings, what can we learn about the process of strengthening and encouraging believers in their faith?** See **Acts 14:21-22**; 16:3-5; Romans 1:11-12; 16:25-27.
2. **What are some ways in which you can strengthen and encourage believers in your life? How have you been strengthened and encouraged by others?**
3. What did Paul specifically remind the Thessalonians concerning his afflictions (v. 3-4)?
4. **The word “disturbed” (v. 3) can also be translated *shaken* or *unsettled* and was used to describe a dog’s wagging tail. How could the apostles’ affliction have unsettled the young church at Thessalonica?**
5. **From vss. 3-4, what do you learn about Paul’s view of affliction in his life?**
6. Paul says in vs. 3 that he was *destined for affliction* and in vs. 4 he told them he would suffer affliction. How did Paul know that? See Acts 9:15-16.
7. **What about us? What has God revealed in Scripture about what *we* can expect to experience as followers of Christ?**

**John 15:18-20**

**John 16:33**

2 Timothy 3:12

1 Peter 2:20-21

*God hath called you to Christ’s side, and the wind is now in Christ’s face in this land;*

*and seeing ye are with Him, ye cannot expect the sunny side of the slope.*

*~Samuel Rutherford*

1. **Trials and persecutions *will* come, but what promises does God’s word give us regarding our suffering?**

**Matthew 5:10-12**

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

**James 1:12**

1 Peter 1:6-9

1 Peter 5:6-11

1. **What is your response to reading these verses? Is this your attitude towards afflictions—whether past, present or potential—or do you tend to think differently towards suffering in your own life?**

*“****David’s pen never wrote more sweetly than when dipped in the ink of affliction”***

***Octavious Winslow***

1. **In verse 5 Paul gives what other reason for sending Timothy to Thessalonica?**
2. In what sense could the apostles’ labor have been *in vain*? For similar wording, see Philippians 2:14-16.
3. **Verse 5 is not a separate thought but is related to the previous concern. From the immediate context, what sort of temptation was Paul concerned about that might cause his labor to be *in vain*?**
4. The danger of young “***professing”*** believers falling away is a very real one, as Christ Himself indicated. Look up Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23. Note the different kinds of soils, what each one represents, and what causes each to fall away.
5. **Were these Thessalonians faithful? Peek ahead at 3:6-8, then see 2 Corinthians 8:1-2.**
6. **What about you? How have you responded to the trials in your life, perhaps a recent trial? What sort of fruit is your faith bearing?**

*When we shall come home and enter to the possession of our Brother’s fair kingdom,*

*and when our head shall find the weight of the eternal crown of glory,*

*and when we shall look back to the pains and sufferings;*

*then shall we see life and sorrow to be less than one step or stride from a prison to glory;*

*and that our little inch of time-suffering is not worthy of our first night’s welcome home to heaven.*

*~Samuel Rutherford*