1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 7

3:6-13

Finish the memory work of **3:12-13**. Pray asking the Holy Spirit to help you to not only hide God’s word in your heart but to help you understand the scriptures and apply them to your life.

Read chapter 3 in a different translation today before starting.

1. **Verse 6 begins with the contrasting word *but*. What previous thought is being contrasted with the contents of verses 6-8?**
2. **Paul says in v. 6 that Timothy brought us “good news” (euaggelizo). Except for this verse, Paul uses this word to refer to the good news of the gospel. Yet here Paul is not referring to the good news of the gospel message. What did Paul want to convey to the Church by using the word (euaggelizo) in this way?**
3. **Timothy’s report had 3 elements of *good news* to it. What are they?**
4. **How does Timothy’s report encourage Paul and Silas (vss. 7-8)?**
5. What does it mean to *stand firm*, how does one do it, and why does this make Paul so happy? For other uses of this word, see Romans 14:4; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 4:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:15.
6. We know from 1:9 that the Thessalonians had already turned to God from idols; why is it so important that they continue to stand firm in the faith now? See Colossians 1:21-23 to help formulate your answer.

1. **How does God’s word cause you to *stand firm* in the Lord?**
2. Knowing that the Thessalonians are standing firm in the Lord elicits what responses from Paul (vss. 8-10)?
3. **What have you learned from Paul from the Thessalonian believers about facing difficulties in a way that honors the Lord? Do you need to handle your difficulties differently than you are? What is your NEW plan for doing so?**
4. **What two elements of Paul’s prayer life are seen in verse 10?**
5. **The adverb “earnestly” means *superabundantly,* *to an extraordinary degree, quite beyond measure.* What would it look like to pray for something in this way?**
6. We have already learned much from the regularity and continual nature of Paul’s prayer life. Let us now learn from his earnestness. If time allows look up Rom. 1:8-12; Eph.1:15-20; Col. 1:3-4 and Col. 1:9-14. How can you imitate his superabundant prayers for the things close to *your* hearts?
7. **What does Paul mean when he says *complete what is lacking in your faith*?** See **Philippians 1:25**; and **Colossians 1:28**; also 1 Thessalonians 3:2.
8. **Paul now breaks out into a petition to God (3:11-13). What are the three requests, and why are they important in light of the circumstances of the church there?**

3:11

3:12

3:13

1. In verse 12, Paul prays that the Thessalonians will grow in love. What would this look like in practical terms? See Romans 12:9-13.
2. How did God answer the petition of verse 12 according to 2 Thessalonians 1:3?
3. **The Scriptures frequently refer to standing blameless before God. How do the following verses give you encouragement as you think about the day when you will stand before God?**

 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

 **Ephesians 5:25-27**

 1 Thessalonians 5:23

 **1 Peter 5:10**

 Jude 24

*It is not our holding to God, but His holding to us that preserves us.*

*A little boat tied to a rock is safe, and so are we, when we are tied to the rock of ages.*

*~Thomas Watson*

1. ***When* will we stand before God blameless in holiness (vs. 13)?**
2. **When will Jesus come back with all His saints? See 4:14-17.**
3. **After completing the lesson, go back and reread verses 6-13. Paul’s great joy and hope for these believers was that they would stand firm so that one day they might appear before God blameless. At this point, each of us needs to ask a crucial question: *Am I standing firm*? Am I growing in love, eager for Christ’s return? Is there anything in your life that would hinder you from answering this with an emphatic, “yes!”? What will your POA be in order to change?**

***“A Charge to Keep I Have”*** *(Charles Wesley)*

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
Who gave His Son my soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill:
Oh, may it all my powers engage
To do my Master’s will!

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And now Thy servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And still on Thee rely,
O let me not my trust betray,
But press to realms on high.