

I Thessalonians Lesson 03

I Thessalonians Chapter 3

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Memory verses for this week: *Mat 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

Introduction: Last week in Chapter 2, Paul explained how he and other missionaries should walk in regards to the church. Paul and his fellow workers had lived a good life before the churches, and were to be highly commended for doing the right things. By their good example, Christians in the churches learned how true men of God should live.

I. Paul's Concern and Comfort

1 Th 3:1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

1 Th 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

Paul labored alone to send Timothy to the church in Thessalonica to establish and comfort them. It is good when we have fellow brothers in Christ who can exhort and establish the church in faith. Paul decided to send Timothy to help the Thessalonians while he himself continued the work in Athens.

1 Th 3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

1 Th 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

There is no doubt that we will face afflictions in this life. It is not a question of "If" but rather 'when' we will face the afflictions. Paul exhorts them to not be moved by the afflictions. Tribulation is part of what we can expect as a child of the Lord. Paul warned young Timothy that if we lived Godly, we would suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

1 Th 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Satan is our enemy, and he has a great desire to destroy our lives and our testimonies. If we let Satan deceive us, our lives will not glorify the Lord.

J. Vernon McGee said this about verse 5.

“The tempter” is none other than Satan. In chapter 2 Paul said, “Satan hindered us.” In other words, Paul is saying to the Thessalonians, “Satan is giving me a bad time, and I fear he may be giving you a bad time also.”

Another purpose of afflictions is to test the genuineness of our belief. *Trouble* is the acid that tests the genuineness of the coin of belief. There are true believers and there are a lot of counterfeit ones. One thing that will really reveal the genuineness of faith is the ability to endure trouble through faith in God. Afflictions reveal the genuine believer, and this is the occasion of Paul’s rejoicing. i

1 Th 3:6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

1 Th 3:7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

1 Th 3:8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

1 Th 3:9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

Paul had been encouraged by the news of Timothy when we told them of the church’s faith and charity. There was a mutual love and respect between the church and these missionaries. None of us know how we affect others when we continue to serve the Lord with faith and sincerity. Verse 8 is an exhortation that we should stand fast in the Lord. This is crucial for us to be effective in spreading the gospel.

J. Vernon McGee said this:

“We live” means that as believers we enjoy life. *If* could have been translated “since”—“since ye stand fast in the Lord.” Even in trouble you can enjoy it—that’s not always easy to do, my friend. This is what Peter writes: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Pet. 4:12–13). You cannot lose as a

iJ. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

Christian. Even if you have trouble, it is going to work out for your good—you can always be sure of that. **ii**

1 Th 3:10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

1 Th 3:11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

1 Th 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

Paul had the heart of a true teacher.. he wanted to meet their need. Our desire is to see the child of God coming into a fullness of perfection in the knowledge of the Word of God. Paul seeks help from the proper place... from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Verse twelve encourages us to grow in our love one towards another. We need to love in both the good times and the bad, and lift up one another in prayer.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

II. Paul and the Revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Th 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

This speaks of the soon coming of Christ when the church is raptured to be with the Lord prior to the 7 years of tribulation. This will be a majestic event that should establish us in our purpose and deeds. Paul told both Titus and young Timothy to be aware that Christ was soon returning to take his children home.

iiJ. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

Titus 3:13 Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Other scriptures concerning the soon return of Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalms 50:3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. 4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. 5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. 6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

Isaiah 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

At the Revelation of Jesus Christ:

- a. Every eye shall see him.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

- b. He will sit on His throne.. the throne of David.

Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

- c. He will rule with His saints.

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

- d. His rest will be glorious.

Isaiah 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.