

# 1 Thessalonians Chapter 3

August 10, 2025

1. Last chapter we emphasized how much Paul's affection for the church there was
  - a. To the point where he says that he was **torn away** (ripped away) from them
  - b. Out of necessity
  - c. Probably because of the persecution
    - i. To protect them
    - ii. Jason and some of the brothers
    - iii. Were dragged into court
    - iv. Disturbing the peace

## Vs 3:1-3

*"So, when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials"*

2. Paul sends Timothy
  - a. WHO HE FREQUENTLY REFERS TO AS **HIS SON**
  - b. **1 Timothy 1:2**  
*"To Timothy my true son in the faith"*
  - d. **1 Corinthians 4:16-17**  
*"Therefore, I urge you to imitate me. For this reason, I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church."*
  - c. **Philippians 2:19-22**  
*"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel."*
  - d. By sending Timothy,
    - i. he is sending the Thessalonians
    - ii. his heart
  - e. Imagine sending your own son into a volatile situation
  - f. That is exactly what God did with His only son - Jesus

## Vs 3-5

*"You know quite well that we were destined for them. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless."*

3. Paul refers to the trials and persecutions they were going through

a. Paul added **his own reminder**

i. that trials are **not** necessarily

ii. a sign of God's disfavor,

b. but are part of every Christian's legacy.

i. When trouble comes,

ii. Christians often react

1. by doubting

2. that they are

3. where God wants them to be;

iii. they often think

1. that they have done something wrong

2. and that God must be displeased with them.

iv. Even some mature Christians react this way

c. Even though he had **prewarned them**

i. that they would be coming

#### **Vs. 6**

*"But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you"*

4. Paul was encouraged to learn from Timothy

a. That their faith was still strong

b. Their love for him and each other was also strong

c. Their memories of his time with them were pleasant

#### **Vs 7-9**

*"Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now, we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?"*

5. **Even with** all the challenges and persecution

a. Paul was able to find encouragement

b. By their commitment to remain strong and faithful

#### **Vs10**

*"Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith."*

6. Paul gives us **insight to his prayer life**

a. Night and day

- b. When you care about someone
  - i. It's **reflected** by the amount of time
  - ii. you go to God on their behalf
- c. He knows that the short time he spent with them
  - i. Did **not** provide them all that they needed
    - 1. To grow in faith,
    - 2. it comes from hearing the word of God

**Romans 10:17**

*"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."*

- ii. This is why **it's important** to have a **daily Bible study**
  - 1. So that we can **continue to grow** in faith
  - 2. Faith is what will **sustain us** during the difficult times
- d. Paul wanted to supply what was lacking in their faith
  - i. He says something similar to the Colossian church
 

**Colossians 1:24**

*"Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church."*
  - ii. **God uses people** to give us what we need
  - iii. THAT IS HIS PLAN
  - iv. **You are part of His plan**
    - 1. to strengthen the faith
    - 2. of people around you
  - v. **Question:** Are you supplying what is lacking 'in faith' with the people around you?

**Vs 11**

*"Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you."*

7. Paul makes reference to "*God clearing the way*"

- a. Prior to his visit to Thessalonica
- b. Paul was blocked
  - i. from going to
  - ii. the province of Asia
  - iii. and Bithynia (**Acts 16:7**)
- c. **Instead**, he was directed by the Spirit
  - i. to go to Macedonia
  - ii. and then to Thessalonica

## Proverbs 16:9

*“In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the LORD determines his steps.”*

- d. We can easily just go through life
  - i. and think that everything
  - ii. is based on coincidence
- e. We don't see the hand of God working
  - i. That is why we can easily get frustrated with our circumstances

## 2 Corinthians 1:8–10

*“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.”*

### ii. **Rather than trust that God**

- 1. is actively working through our decision
- iii. Instead of getting down and depressed
  - 1. We should ask, “what is God doing
    - a. with me,
    - b. through me
    - c. or to me
    - d. at this time
    - e. and place in my life
  - 2. What can I learn from this situation
- f. Sometimes it's so that **we can help someone else** in the future

## Vs 12

*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you”*

- 8. The Thessalonians were already noted for their **love**
  - a. but **Paul prayed** that it might abound—**increase** (*pleo-nasai*)
    - i. multiply, grow exponentially
  - b. **and overflow** (*peris-seu-sai*)—even more than it is now
    - i. like water overflowing from a pitcher
  - c. **NO MATTER HOW LOVING WE ARE TOWARD OTHERS**
    - i. We can always increase our capacity to love other people

### 1 John 3:16–18

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*

### Vs 13

*“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”*

9. Paul did not pray that they would be sinless
  - a. that was IMPOSSIBLE
  - b. He prayed that they would **be blameless**
    - i. that is, that after they sinned
    - ii. they would deal with it as God requires
  - c. He also prayed that they would **be holy**
    - i. **Hagiō-sýnēē** (only used 3 times in NT)
    - ii. Our lifestyle set apart to God
      1. in their hearts
      2. and habits
    - iii. moral dedication in the form of purity

### 2 Corinthians 7:1

*“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”*