

1 THESSALONIANS

3:1-13 | STUDY GUIDE

Faith

1 THESSALONIANS 3:5, "For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain." (ESV)

- The first few verses tell us something about both Paul and the church of Thessalonica

- Paul doesn't like to be left alone
- The church was facing a very real threat

1 THESSALONIANS 3:6, "But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you..." (ESV)

- Paul doesn't seek to make life "easy" for the church
 - Let's look back at verse 3, "that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this."
 - Paul sent Timothy to check on the church. He knows that they face a very real enemy, but he also sees this threat as something they "destined" to fight.
- Affliction doesn't mean the absence of divine appointment—in fact, more often comfort leads to complacency. Just as the enemy is real, warfare is hard.

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1 THESSALONIANS 3:8, "For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord." (ESV)

- The suggestion here is an interconnectivity; "that we may...supply what is lacking in your faith."
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:10, "...as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?" (ESV)
 - Encouragement
 - Instruction
 - Relationship

1 THESSALONIANS 3:13, "...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints." (ESV)

- This isn't a natural or "man-made" gospel—this is supernatural

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Fant, Clyde E, and Mitchell G Reddish, A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey, Jung Unchan, A Tale of Two Churches