

1 Thessalonians

Week 5: Concern for the Thessalonians

October 11 2023



1 Thessalonians 3:1-12

You may recall, Paul desired to go back and visit the church in Thessalonica— but he was forbidden to go— probably because of the conditional bond that Jason had been released on. (1 Thess. 2:18, Acts 17:1-9) Over time, Paul grew increasingly concerned for the believers there, that they would not turn back from their faith in Christ. As Paul, Silas and Timothy travelled from Thessalonica, the team split up. Though he was very young, Timothy was sent from Berea to see how the Thessalonians were doing, this letter was written after Timothy and Silas met up with Paul in Corinth.

1. The purposes for Timothy’s visit. Vs. 1-5

A. To strengthen and encourage them. Verse 2,3

Timothy was to come alongside them and stabilize their faith in the midst of their trials and afflictions. His concern was that they would become unsettled, shaken or moved. They would keep their eyes on Christ. Trials are not to be considered out of the ordinary. We are destined for them in this life. James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7)

To be persecuted means to be hard pressed and pursued with intent to do harm. Cain persecuted Abel, Ishmael persecuted Isaac. (Genesis 21:8-10; Galatians 4:28-31). Those desiring to live a godly life must expect it. 2 Timothy 3:1-5,10-15. What does Paul instruct Timothy to do in the face of persecutions?

_____.

B. To see if the enemy, Satan had tempted them to give up. Vs 5,6

His concern was that if in the face of the persecution, they would stop telling of Jesus or living for him. He was concerned they would give in to the pressure around them. Just as He tempted Jesus to get him from doing the father’s will, so he and his demons will tempt us to keep us from doing God’s will. He will use anything to do it! What we are seeing in Israel—the acts carried out by Hamas are an attempt to stop God’s end-time plan from being fulfilled. (Romans 11:1-6, 25-27; Revelation 12) Satan hates humanity and he particularly hates Christians and Jews.

2. The results of Timothy’s visit. Vs. 7-9

A. Pleasant Memories and a longing to be reunited. Vs. 6 _____

B. Encouragement of Paul, Silas and Timothy. Vs. 7 _____

C. Revived Spirit and Joy. Verse. 8 _____

3. The Prayer and Blessing vs. 10-12

A. See one another again. _____

B. Provision for their faith. _____

C. Increase and overflow of love for one another. _____

D. Strengthening of hearts. _____

E. Be blameless and holy when the Lord returns. _____