

1 THESSALONIANS

Chapter 3 – Paul and Company's Love and Concern for
the Thessalonians

Their Concern Proven in Action

- They sent Timothy to encourage and establish them – 3:1-4
 - They were willing to be alone to fortify these brethren's faith – 3:1-2
 - Establishment and encouragement were needed because of the affliction and tribulation the Thessalonians were facing – 3:3-4; Mt. 13:20-21; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jn. 15:19
- They sent Timothy to learn of their faith – 3:5
 - Paul knew the danger Satan and temptation held in destroying their work
 - The necessity of continued faithfulness was a common concern of Paul's epistles, as it should be of ours – Phil. 2:14-16

Timothy Returns with Good News

- Timothy's news of their enduring faith, love, and desire for them brought much encouragement – 3:6-7
 - “Good news” is the same word as “gospel” and brought the same joy—joy of salvation – 3:6; Eph. 1:15-16
 - This news brought comfort during their own affliction and distress – 3:7
- This news gave Paul and his companions “life” – 3:8
 - Faithful brethren are concerned about the faithfulness of their brethren—it affects their life!
 - The Thessalonians' faithfulness renewed and energized them.
 - This is the level of concern and connection God wants for us.

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer for Them

- The faithfulness of the Thessalonians had brought overwhelming joy – 3:9-11
 - Their joy was so great it was difficult to express to God – 3:9; Jn. 13:34-35
 - They were asking God to allow them to return to Thessalonica so they could help complete what was lacking in their faith – 3:10-11
- Paul asks God to grant these brethren the love and holiness needed to stand before the Lord at His coming – 3:12-13
 - Paul wants their love to overflow for one another – 3:12; Rom. 5:8; Mt. 5:44-45
 - Love was needed to establish their hearts in blamelessness and holiness – 3:13; 1 Jn. 3:14; 4:20-21

Conclusion

- I want to exhort you to grow to...
 - Have a deep concern for your brethren that motivates you to act for their spiritual good, establishment, and encouragement.
 - Rejoice in the faithfulness of your brethren, being truly connected as a family in Christ.
 - Express your love and thankfulness for your brethren to one another and to God in daily prayer
- When such love and concern is achieved, true happiness will be ours and others will see it!
- Will you respond to the gospel call of Christ and be saved?