

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF
THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 3:1-13

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TITLE:

" HOW A CHURCH SHOULD STAND "
A CALL TO WATCH & WAIT

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

INTRODUCTION

Mother's Day

Mother's Day holds the all-time worlds record for the heaviest volume of calls made in a 24 hour period. On Mother's day us kids will place today worldwide multiple millions calls to mother.

Father's day, not to be out done, holds a world record as well! Every year Father's day sets the annual worlds record for collect calls made within a 24 hr. Period (thank you Dad)

Paul's Mothering Heart Toward The Church

Chapter 3 is dedicated to the **caring and nurturing** of the new born Christian and how he learns his first few steps in the spiritual world around him

IN TAKING OUR FIRST STEPS...

The Bible Teaches And The Thessalonians were Taught by Paul
Hardships & Trials will come to the Church - A General Assumption!

**WE OFTEN THINK THAT -
NOW THAT I'M A CHRISTIAN THINGS WILL BE EASY**

After All... Didn't Jesus Say

John 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and that they
may have it more abundantly.

By Coming into His Family Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to dwell inside you. The work of the Holy Spirit begins in us now for now but also for the future - **We have a glorious Future Ahead of Us**

IT'S KINDA LIKE BEING IN GROUND SCHOOL

(Ground School is Great... There are pictures and models of all kinds of airplanes hanging around - the walls have map murals lay out across America... everybody's wearing the aviator sunglasses - but nobody has their licenses yet
You Can't Even Fly Yet!...
but you're ready & waiting

The Believer is to be Ready & Waiting
(even though there are tough times going on around us)

The Key Word in this Chapter & Study

1 Thessalonians 3:2

"Paul had sent Timothy..... to **establish** you and encourage you concerning your faith,

1 Thessalonians 3:13

so that He (the Lord) may **establish** your hearts

The Key Verse in this Chapter & Study

1 Thessalonians 3:8

For now we live, if you **stand** fast in the Lord.

Paul has Loving Concern Like a Parent for the Church

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| I.) | He was concerned last week for their Sufferings | vv. 13-20 |
| II.) | He is now concerned in chapter 3 for their Testing | vv. 1-13 |

1.) Paul Sends Them His Love vv. 1-5

It is Seen in His Concern for Them

Verse 1

The **"Therefore"** is therefore verses 17-20

when we could no longer endure it

The love and concern that we have for you could no longer wait

- When things got rough with us and we felt pretty low, we refocused on just why are we doing these things and you know what? we got so excited about your walk with the Lord that we were recharged

a) His Concern for Them

vv. 1

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Left GRK 2641 kataleipo (kat-al-i'-po)

to leave behind. To leave someone at the moment of death
(Paul placed himself as the one who was dying over their separation)

You could not accuse Paul of being a Hireling

(True Shepherds vs. Assumed Shepherds)

one is consumed with the welfare of God's flock
the other with the promotion of himself

(many use the ministry to advance their career
opportunities)

~~~~~ NOT PAUL ~~~~~

Paul Experienced "Bereavement" having to have left them !

Philippians 1:21-24

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Romans 9:3

For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race,

if paul couldn't be there -  
he knew who to send

b) He Sent HIMSELF in Timothy

vv. 2

A Look at the Obvious (?)

#1 **TIMOTHY WAS A BROTHER - HE WAS A BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN**  
(he cared about what Paul cared about)

#2 **TIMOTHY WAS A MINISTER - HE WAS A COMMITTED BROTHER**  
(he was willing to serve others at his own expense)

#3 **TIMOTHY WAS A FELLOW LABORER - A "GOD-GIVER" IN TEACHING**  
(he was the ultimate "team-player" - he could pass the ball)

**Our sister Church in New York...** When they needed to rent the facilities of another church in town the Pastor discovered that the board members and leaders of that church were not even born again, not even Christians...

Philippians 2:19

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. **For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.**

**I Thank God for the Staff Here**, for the Board, for the volunteers here (**it's easy to minister here because we're all going in the same direction**)

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, unless they are in agreement to do so? - NO!

### Verse 3

c) **The Church will have an Upward Battle** vv. 3-5

**we are going against the tide,**  
against the flow, against the grain

**Check the Wind!** When you want to take an Airplane off the ground the last thing you want to do is to point that airplane downwind (with the wind)

**If you wanna fly** - You had better point that nose into the opposing wind

**The Opposition Provides the Lift**  
**(+&-)..... and when flying, "Lift is Life"**

The Greater the Head Wind - The Sooner  
You'll be Off the Ground

### if it's clear and calm

#1 there is no exercise of faith needed

#2 there is no need to cry out and

#3 there is no desire to be delivered...

# But When the storm hits

- what then is your reaction? Is toward God or is it sheer panic and despair?

FOR THE CHRISTIAN, THERE ARE NEVER ANY ACCIDENTS - ONLY APPOINTMENTS

## Central & Northern California & Gold Rush Of 1849

A TRIAL IS THE ACID TEST THE GENUINENESS OF THE COIN OF BELIEF

### Verse 4

**“For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation (trials),**

All “New Christians” need to hear this,  
and hear it the day they get saved!

**KEEP WALKING, KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE PATH**

Often a new Christian will experience the rush of his conversion and the new life only to be shocked when the world throws him a curve ball or temptation...

We all will experience trials and tests along the way  
(If it's smooth Sailing for you right now - consider these (2) things

#1 CHEER UP - YOUR DAY OF TRIAL AND TESTING IS COMING AND

#2 LOOK AROUND YOU - SOMEONE NEAR YOU NEEDS YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT

Matthew 13:21

"yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

**just as it happened..... and you know**

(it's happened to you & me).  
We are sharing this trial together

**(How's it going - Terrible! well praise the Lord brother...)**

## 2.) Their Lives became a Letter to Paul

vv. 6-8

### Verse 6

#### a) Paul was “Assured” of His Ministry

1. YOUR FAITH IS STILL THERE
2. YOUR LOVE IS STILL INTACT
3. YOUR REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PAUL

### Verse 7

#### c) Their Growth Brought Paul Peace

Because you are Walking even in the Hard times - We are Encouraged!

Your Faith Proves that you are for real.

2 Corinthians 3:1

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

**(you are our resumes)**

## The Need to Disciple the New Believer is Priority 1

New Believers Follow Up Prevents them from Fouling Up

Your Faith makes any little inconvenience that we might be going through like nothing!!!

Paul would say, we're not going to get discouraged  
(((( NOT GONNA DO IT, NOOOOT GONNA DO IT ))))

**we can't, - not now,  
- not with news like this!!!**

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a **far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**,

## discouragement Defeats Us - It handicaps Our walk

we cannot yield to discouragement because of De Feet, De Hands, De Head

“An Old Jamaican Proverb...

“When De-Feet are Discouraged, We find it hard to Walk”

### “Ask Elijah”

after the Greatest Mountain Top Experience of them All

1 Kings 19:4

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "**It is enough!**, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

## Discouragement Defeats Us

But Knowing the Bible “Specifically” will Guarantee Our Victory  
Jesus DeFEETed Satan in Matthew 4 using the printed word of your Bible  
The Book of Deuteronomy... “Specifically”

**Ephesians 6:17**

And take **the sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **The Mikarah**

Satan's out to Defeat you - just ask the Serpent in the Garden of Eden.  
Satan Lost his feet.

### Verse 8

b) The Life of the Ministry is Lived out in them

For now we live, if you **stand** fast in the Lord.

\* Stand Fast

GRK 4739 **steko** (stay'-ko)

to be stationary, while persevering (almost sounds contradictory)

## It's like the little boy

who just got done having the best little birthday party any little boy could ever have so he just sat down in the midst of all his presents and wrapping paper and closed his eyes - just sat there! Just then his grandma walks up and asks Johnny - "Son what are you doing" "I'm waiting for my birthday to come around again"

To "STAND FAST" THAT REALLY SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE GOING PLACES NOW.

That's Exactly Right!

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

## Are You Standing Fast ? or Running Loose

### 3.) He Offered Up Prayer for Them vv. 9-13

#### a) Paul's Heart Longs for Them Again

1 Samuel 12:23

"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing **to pray** for you; but I **will teach** you the good and the right way.

## Prayer & Doctrine

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GOD'S MINISTERS ARE TO FOCUS ON ONE MAIN POINT TO THEIR CALLING

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## The Work of Prayer & Doctrine

Acts 6:4

"but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." - **so that we can avoid people and remain aloof and look busy**

## paul prays 3

Specific Requests For The New Believer

## Verse 10

### 1st prayer

Is That Their Faith Might Mature  
**that we may see your face and perfect  
what is lacking in your faith?**

#### An Old Testament Example

of the Pastor - Priest Aaron's Breast Plate The Twelve Stone Ephod upon his heart !!!

The New Believer's experience was and is and shall be founded on Faith

### The Faith of the Christian is opposite to the worlds Faith

But The Christian  
Has Faith that is Founded upon Fact.

The Evolutionist  
for example has Faith Founded on Hope

(what their faith is based upon is that they hope an accident took place a long time ago and it created all this...)

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in **all wisdom** and spiritual understanding; that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## Verse 11

### b) Paul Knows Who to Pray to

#### NOTE

the Grandeur of the One to whom he is Praying !!!

vv. 11 = "Our" **God** and **Father Himself** and "Our" **Lord Jesus Christ**

vv. 12 = And may The **Lord** is believed to be a prayer to the Holy Spirit

# The Trinity

## Verse 12

### 2nd prayer

#### Is That Their Love Might Abound

Times of Hardship and Suffering can become Times of Selfishness and self-pity

it has been said that;  
“what life does to us depends on what life finds in us”

Tough Times Reveal the True Us and What we are made of... SAND OR  
ROCK ?

In Times of Affliction We either  
(1) Build walls around us to escape  
or  
(2) We build a bridge toward the Lord

## Verse 13

### 3rd prayer

#### Is That They Would Live a Separated Life

The Imminent Return of Jesus Christ helps to stand taller and straighter

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

\* **Establish** **GRK 4741 sterizo (stay-rid'-zo)**  
to strengthen up. To keep in position, to lift up & keep up

Exodus 17:12

But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

**The Picture that's Painted here** is that The Lord Jesus is on one side of you and the Father is on the Other side of you and the Holy Spirit is pushing from the inside of you

what if you knew that at 3:21 today Jesus was going to Rapture the church from off the earth...

where would you be between now and 3:20?

One Last Drink, One Last Girl, One Last Oreo Cookie Milk Shake  
or  
Would you be pleading with your friends and family the gospel

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Luke 21:34

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly...."

Luke 21:36

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted **worthy** to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to **stand** before the Son of Man."

## The Way We as a Church Ought to be Standing

- #1 Careful to see that our **Faith is Maturing**
- #2 Exercising our **Love so that it is Abounding**
- #3 Encouraging one another to **Live Lives that are Set Apart**