

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3

I. RESTLESSNESS of Paul (v. 1-10)

1. Paul's REQUEST (v. 1-5)

A. To ESTABLISH

- "Therefore", Paul's parent perspective
- No longer "endure", Gr. to cover over in silence
- Sent Timothy, fellow laborer, brother, minister of God
 - To ESTABLISH, Gr. to stand fast
 - To ENCOURAGE, Gr. **parakaleo** = to call to the side
- Paul wants to know their faith (v.5)
- Wants no one to be "shaken by afflictions"
 - Shaken, lit. "drawn aside"
 - Gr. to be moved side to side, like dog wags the tail
 - THESE afflictions, def. art., Gr. **thlipsis**, pressure, to squeeze
 - (v.3) All believers (we) are appointed (Gr. = to lie upon) to this

B. To ENCOURAGE

- (v.4) "In fact", Paul told them beforehand
 - "We" x 3, suffer tribulation, comes with the territory
 - You were told, now you know how it feels
 - But Paul sends Timothy with a mission
- Wants to know their faith, THE faith
- "By some means", the tempter is successful in tempting (both verbs)
 - THE tempter (def. art) it's what he does, continual process
 - Tempt, Gr. test, trial
 - Doesn't want all the labor to be wasted

2. Timothy's REPORT (v. 6-10)

A. DESIRE of fellowship

- Timothy brings back good news of 2 things
 - Their faith and love, faith is the fuel, love is the action

- Their remembrance, good memories
- The parent and child want to see each other, continual action
- The pains of separation, 2 Cor 5:1-8

B. DISTRESS of separation

- (v.7) "Therefore", Paul is comforted now by their faith
 - Timothy's comfort returns comfort
 - (v.8) Paul is energized, feel alive if they continue
- (v.9) Paul is beyond words, how can you possibly thank the Lord?
 - All the joy that causes Paul to rejoice for their sake
 - Ceaseless prayer to be able to see them, face to face
- Paul's desire, finish what he started, perfect their faith
- He knew they still had much to learn, parental instruction

II. REFRESHMENT of Paul (v. 11-13)

1. MAGNIFY love to each other

- Paul wishes God and Father and Lord Jesus to direct his return
 - Interesting sentence construct, Optative mood
 - 4 moods in Greek
 - Indicative – Statement of fact or question
 - Imperative – Command or request
 - Subjunctive – Connected to a supposed or desired action
 - Optative – Rare in NT, a wish or indirect quotation
 - Def art separate occurrences, "God our Father", "Lord Jesus Christ"
 - Granville Sharp Rule
 - Def art on first noun, followed by 'and', followed by second noun
 - Titus 2:13
 - 2 Peter 1:1
- (v.11) "direct our way", Gr. = to make a straight path, optative mood
 - 3x he uses this mood to express his desire for them
 - Idea of guiding someone directly toward something, their journey

- Consider the symbolism, God guiding our ways
 - Psalm 5:1-8
 - Mark 1:1-3
- Paul wishes for them to “increase” and “abound”
 - Little difference between the 2 verbs
 - Only Paul uses the Gr. word for increase
 - Lit. “to make to abound”, more than enough, surplus
 - Paul is the catalyst

2. MULTIPLY love to all

- (v.12) Paul gives 3 reasons for his desire:
 - To love each other (believers)
 - To love others (all, believers & non-believers)
 - To be establish as blameless in holiness (to the Lord) (v. 13)
- “abound”, lit. over and above, overflowing, excess in number
- Love was to increase/abound 2 ways:
 - BIGGER, more powerful, genuine
 - BROADER, more scope, more effect
- What is the result of this love?
 - 2 Cor 8:1-5, Macedonian churches, Paul expounds on this thought
 - (v.13) Hearts strengthened as blameless
- “In holiness”
 - The qualities of character for which no proof is needed
 - Used only 3 places in NT
 - Rom 1:1-4, Jesus was the Spirit of holiness, manifested within
 - 2 Cor 6:14-7:1, for believers to live a virtuous life, transformation
 - 1 Thes 3:13, establish hearts in a life pleasing to God
- Blameless before God at the coming of Jesus
 - Gr. **parousia** = being present, coming to a place
 - Comes with the saints, but not in wrath or judgement
 - Rapture and judgement before God