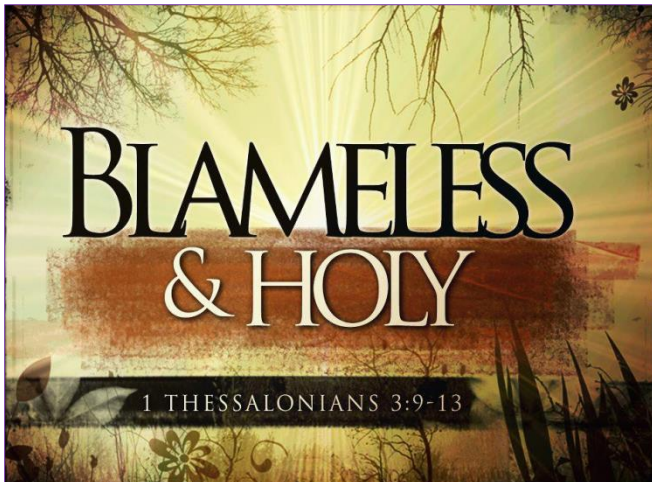




*Paul sent Timothy to encourage and fortify the faith of the Thessalonian believers. The good news that Timothy brought back regarding their development, strengthens the apostle. He prays that he will be able to return to help the believers grow to completion. Specifically, he prays that they will grow in love and holiness and that they will be ready at the coming of Christ Jesus with His saints.*

## Outline

- Preview ..... Introduction
- Paul's Concern ..... 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
- Paul's Comfort ..... 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10
- Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming Prayer ..... 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13



## Truths & Principles

- ✓ Pain and temptations are normal facets of the Christian's sanctified life.
- ✓ Every day God will present you with various opportunities for you to trust Him.
- ✓ God the Holy Spirit enables us grow in His holiness and love, so that we become more Christ-like.
- ✓ The coming of Christ with His saints should fill us with hope and commitment to holiness and love for one another.

## Applications

- ✓ We should let fellow believers know that we care about their faith and growth.
- ✓ Prayer for one another's spiritual integrity should take precedence over the concerns for all other facets of life.
- ✓ Our Christian relationships are branded by the level of love and care we express for the concerns of others.
- ✓ Set your sights on your eternal home, not this temporal rental.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. Who was left alone in Athens (3:1)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was sent to the Thessalonians (3:2)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was he sent (3:2-3)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Paul's fear regarding the Thessalonians (3:5)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the good news received regarding the Thessalonians (3:6)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the source of comfort regarding the Thessalonians (3:7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What prayer was offered night and day for the Thessalonians (3:9-10)? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The prayer for Thessalonians was directed to whom (3:11)? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who will make the Thessalonians increase and abound in love (3:12)? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who will establish your hearts blameless in holiness (3:13)? \_\_\_\_\_
11. When will this occur and before whom (3:13)? \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Questions

1. Consider Paul's declaration of appointed affliction for believers (1 THESSALONIANS 3:3-4).
  - ❖ What does it mean to not be shaken by affliction/persecution (VERSE 3)?
  - ❖ What did Jesus have to say about "*tribulation or persecution*" in the parable of the sower (MATTHEW 13:18-23)? Which soil did not respond well to persecution?
  - ❖ How Jesus' persecution warning in MATTHEW 10:21-23 align with the false teachings of the "*prosperity gospel*" movement?
2. Reflect on Paul's relief when he heard the good news regarding the Thessalonians in VERSES 6-10.
  - ❖ When you pray for others what priority do you place on their faith?
  - ❖ Is the priority for their faith higher, lower or about the same compared with their physical needs?
  - ❖ Does the priority mix vary from person to person?
  - ❖ Who sets the agenda when you pray? Contemplate ROMANS 8:26-30.
3. Ponder VERSES 11-13 and Paul's prayer for the Thessalonian believers - and by extension us.
  - ❖ How can you increase and abound in your love for others?
  - ❖ Loving others is not an option – it is a command from our Lord. Read JOHN 15:9-17 and allow the Holy Spirit to show you tangible ways to obey Christ's Agape command.
  - ❖ In addition, Paul prays that the Holy Spirit will establish their hearts blameless in holiness before God the Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus (note all members of the trinity are involved). Is this your prayer for others? For yourself?