

LESSON 4: 1 THESSALONIANS 3

Hang in There!

1. Timothy was sent from Athens to Thessalonica to accomplish what three tasks (vv. 1-6, esp. 2 and 6)?
2. What was Paul's concern for the Thessalonian Christians (vv. 1-5)? Why should Christians "know quite well that we were destined for" trials (v. 3)?
3. How do you think "the tempter" could have tempted these Christians (v. 5) What is the key to withstanding such temptation (vv. 5-8)?
4. What sobering fact is suggested by the statement "that our labor would be in vain" (v. 5)? Compare his words and sentiments here with Galatians 2:1-2; 4:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2; and 12:20-21. (See also 1 Cor. 15:1-10; 56-58). What do these passages teach us about the nature of Paul's care for the churches?
5. Why do you think Paul so strongly emphasized faith in the life of the Thessalonian Christians? (See Acts 15:7-11; Rom 1:16-17; 4:13-16; 2 Cor 5:1-7; Gal 2:15-6,20; 3:11-14; 5:1-6; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Thess. 1:3; Heb 10:39-11:2; 1 Pet. 1:3-7.)
6. Compare the tone of verses 6-10 with verses 1-5. Summarize Timothy's report (vv. 6-8). What two proofs of the Thessalonians' love must have encouraged Paul?

7. What do you think Paul means when he writes of his eagerness to “see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith” (v. 10)?

8. For what three things does Paul pray in verses 11-13? How might we as individual believers and as a congregation in 21st century Bucks County manifest such overflowing love and strengthened hearts? Are you blameless and holy? Will you be counted as such in the end? Can we be sure of the answer, and, if so, on what basis?

9. What do you think Paul means when he writes in verse 13 about Jesus coming with all his “holy ones”? To what event does this refer, and who are these “holy ones”?