

# *I Thessalonians*

## (5) Paul's anxious concern

1 *Thess* 3

3 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. 4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. 5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. 6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. 7 Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. 8 For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. 9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. NIV

### **Paul's anxiety for the Thessalonians...3: 1-5**

Because of his concern for the Thessalonians, what did Paul do and why? 3:1-2; Phil.2:19-25

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Why did Paul think this action would be necessary? 3:3; Rom.5:1-5; ICor.15:58

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What's his reminder in 3:4? See Jn.16:1-3 Comment??

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What was Paul's underlying fear regarding the church at Thessalonica? 3:5; IICor.11:2-3

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### **Paul's anxiety is relieved...3:6-13**

What was Timothy's report back to Paul? 3:6; Prov.25:25; ITim.1:5

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Rather than concern about the *trials*, what was Paul's deepest concern? 3:7-8; IICor.1:4

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What was Paul's overflowing joy about? 3:9; 1:2-3

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What was his 'night and day' prayer? 3:10-11 see 2:18; Rom.1:10, 15:30-32

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And next on his prayer list for them? 3:12, 5:15; IJn.3:11-19; Gal.5:13-14

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What is Paul's next prayer for them? 3:13a; Phil.1:8-11; Col.1:21-23

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And 'when', specifically, was that 'presence' to be expected? 3:13b; see 4:13-18

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Why is 3:12-13 such a strong motivation for Godly living? Lu.12:35-40

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### Paul's anxiety for the Thessalonians...3: 1-5

Because of his concern for the Thessalonians, what did Paul do and why? 3:1-2; Phil.2:19-25

**He sent Timothy, his son in the faith, to strengthen/encourage them in their faith.**

Why did Paul think this action would be necessary? 3:3; Rom.5:1-5; ICor.15:58

**He knew *great trials* were upon them and he wanted them to *stand firm* in their faith.**

What's his reminder in 3:4? See Jn.16:1-3 Comment??

**Remember that in the short time I was with you I kept telling you persecution would come.**

What was Paul's underlying fear regarding the church at Thessalonica? 3:5; IICor.11:2-3

**He was afraid that Satan would have tempted (to try) them to *not stand* in their faith.**

### Paul's anxiety is relieved...3:6-13

What was Timothy's report back to Paul? 3:6; Prov.25:25; ITim.1:5

**Good news! Their faith was strong, love was strong. Love for Paul was also evident.**

Rather than concern about the *trials*, what was Paul's deepest concern? 3:7-8; IICor.1:4

**He was *greatly* encouraged because of their faith. They were *standing firm* in the Lord.**

What was Paul's overflowing joy about? 3:9; 1:2-3

What was his 'night and day' prayer? 3:10-11 see 2:18; Rom.1:10, 15:30-32

**That God would allow him to return, to supply what might be lacking in their faith.**

And next on his prayer list for them? 3:12, 5:15; IJn.3:11-19; Gal.5:13-14

**May the Lord make your love for each other, and everyone, to increase and overflow.**

What is Paul's next prayer for them? 3:13a; Phil.1:8-11; Col.1:21-23

**May the Lord strengthen your hearts to be blameless and holy in the presence of God...**

And 'when', specifically, was that 'presence' to be expected? 3:13b; see 4:13-18

**When our Lord Jesus comes (rapture) with all His holy ones (the dead in Christ).**

Why is 3:12-13 such a strong motivation for Godly living? Lu.12:35-40