

July 11, 2021

Our Love For You
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 NLT

In Chapter 3 of 1 Thessalonians Paul recaps how he longed to see the new believers in Thessalonica. He had shared the message of Christ with them and then was forced to leave town because of persecution. He was unable to return so he eventually sent Timothy to check on them. When Timothy returned to Paul with news that they are still following Christ and are strong in their faith it brought great joy to Paul. For him, all of the persecution and affliction was worth it when he heard that they had kept and were growing in the faith. This week join us as we look at the encouragement and joy that we see from the faith of others.

Encouragement of Timothy's Visit

3 Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, **3** so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. **4** For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. **5** For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, **7** for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; **8** for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord. **9** For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, **10** as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; **12** and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; **13** so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes