

# Paul's Wish List

(1 Thes. 3)

# Summary of 1 Th.3

Thessalonians need help

Paul cannot be with them

What to do?

# I. Paul's Plan

# Intolerable anxiety

1-2: Paul's remedy. His anxiety, their persecution and imperfect faith

3-4: Paul's reminder. Ac.14:22

5: Paul's realism.

6-7: Paul's relief.

8: Paul's revival.

9-12: Paul's rejoicing.

13: Paul's reunion.

I. Paul's Plan

II. Paul's Partner

# Bitter hatred assaulted Paul; how would Timothy fare?

- Power of encouragement, 1-2
  - To establish you (strengthen; reinforce).

“Make them capable of standing fast without discouragement or doubt, in midst of physical, moral, and doctrinal calamities” – Spicq

# Bitter hatred assaulted Paul; how would Timothy fare?

- Power of encouragement, 1-2
  - To establish you (strengthen; reinforce).
  - To encourage your faith. Equip / sustain
    - Paul: jailed, stoned, condemned to die... but could not stand now knowing ... 2 Co.11:28
    - Timothy: <sup>1</sup>Greek father; <sup>2</sup>youth; <sup>3</sup>likely to escape persecution...

# Bitter hatred assaulted Paul; how would Timothy fare?

- Power of encouragement, 1-2
- Progress of faith, 2
  - “Faith” – 3:5, 6, 7, 10



# Bitter hatred assaulted Paul; how would Timothy fare?

- Power of encouragement, 1-2
- Progress of faith, 2
- Protection for faith, 2
  - Satan (2:18) attacks faith
    - 1 Tim.1:5-6
    - 1 Tim.1:19-20
    - 1 Tim.4:1
    - 2 Tim.2:17-19

How to protect faith?  
Lk.9:51, steadfastness  
Lk.22:32, prayer

# Bitter hatred assaulted Paul; how would Timothy fare?

- Power of encouragement, 1-2
- Progress of faith, 2
- Protection for faith, 2
- Preparation for problems, 3-4
  - 3: not shaken... (confirmed; established, 2; stand fast, 8) Ja.1:2-3.
  - 3: appointed... Lk.2:34; 1 Pt.4:12
  - 4: forewarned; no deception...

# Bitter hatred assaulted Paul; how would Timothy fare?

- Power of encouragement, 1-2
- Progress of faith, 2
- Protection for faith, 2
- Preparation for problems, 3-4
- Plight of Thessalonians, 5 (= 1-2)
  - Has their faith survived the test?
  - Did the tempter win a victory?

I. Paul's Plan

II. Paul's Partner

III. Paul's Progress

“But now... Timothy has come...” (v.6)

- “Good news” – their . . . .
  - **faith:** 1:8. [unshaken]
  - **love:** 3:12 [not cold]
  - **good remembrance of us:** 2:9-11 [hungry for more]

# “We were comforted...” (v.7)

- Reassured, encouraged...by your faith
- Despite...
  1. Persecution
  2. False charges (2:3-5...)
  3. Immorality

# “Now we live if you stand...” (v.8)

- “My misgiving was needless; you will go on to justify my confidence” – Findlay
- “I don’t think I could survive without you” – paraphrase

# “Gratitude floods Paul’s soul” (v.9)

- Paul: “I couldn’t care more!”
- Verses 6-10: ‘you’ and ‘your’ (11x)



## Paul's prayers (v.10)

1. **Praying exceedingly** [quite beyond all measure, most earnestly]
2. **Perfect**: fix up any **deficiencies** in their faith
3. **A defect that must be removed, short-coming**

## Paul's prayers (v.10)

- Spiritual babies of Thessalonica have much to learn.
- Immaturity is dangerous.
- Satan doesn't care if we obey gospel, learn Bible...IF we leave pockets of ignorance intact.
  - Acts 2
  - 2 Pt.2

I. Paul's Plan

II. Paul's Partner

III. Paul's Progress

IV. Paul's Prayer

# Paul can't be there; Lord can

11: may (wish) God lead / direct us to Thessalonica

- Ac.17:14, alone
- Ac.17:15, sent for Timothy / Silas (18:5)
- 1 Th.3:1-2, Timothy with him in Athens
- Ac.20:1-4, Paul's visit to Macedonia – 3<sup>rd</sup> journey
- For much of his life, Paul traveled to preach, or was in prison

# Paul can't be there; Lord can

12: may (wish) Lord make you increase and abound

- Never be satisfied with present level of love.
- We must abound . . . .
  - In love for one another
  - In love for all. Mt.5:44
  - With our love as your pattern

# Paul can't be there; Lord can

13: may (wish) He establish your hearts, fix firmly, strengthen; committed

- Stouthearted people – courageous, and stubborn ... firm resolve to obey God...
  - Blameless, faultless, 2:10
  - In holiness
  - Before our God and Father...

## Conclusion –

1. When gospel takes root, Christians rejoice, 5-9
2. Ministry of truth does not exclude emotions, 6-8
3. Faith and love are two primary indicators of a Christian's growth, 5-6, 10
4. Our chief concern for brothers is not physical health, but spiritual, 8-10
5. Paul values face-to-face teaching, 10
6. We're all a work in progress, 10. 1 Tim.4:15

“If we work on marble it will perish. If we work on brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work on men’s immortal minds, if we impress on them high principles, the just fear of God and love for their fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity”

– Daniel Webster