

With The Master In View of His Return

Lesson 9 - Paul's Pastoral Concern for the Church at Thessalonica - 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1. (a) What struggles is Paul having according to 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5? (b) What action does he take?
2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 3:3.
3. (a) What qualities does Paul say Timothy has in 1 Thessalonians 3:2? (b) According to the following passages, what other qualities does Timothy have? Acts 16: 1, 2; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:2; (c) When you compile all "these" qualities, what kind of man would you summarize Timothy to be?
4. Paul also mentions that Timothy both established and encouraged the brethren at Thessalonica. (a) Why would these both be necessary for the church at Thessalonica? (b) Why are both of these important in ministry? (c) What happens when we just use one without the other?
5. We are appointed to afflictions according to 1 Thessalonians 3:3. (a) How did Jesus tell us to handle these things in John 16:33? Do you handle affliction that way? (b) How did Peter tell us to handle afflictions in 1 Peter 4:12-19? Is this how you respond? (c) How did Paul describe affliction in Philippians 1:29? Do you see it like that? (d) Who will suffer affliction in 2 Timothy 3:12? Are you?
6. Paul was very concerned that the persecuted believers might abandon their faith-1 Thessalonians 3:5. (a) If they did abandon their faith what would this indicate according to Matthew 13:18-23, Hebrews 10:35-39 and 1 John 2:19? (b) How do these verses motivate you to persevere in your walk with the Lord?
7. (a) How could you use 1 Thessalonians 3:3 and 4 to encourage someone who is going through hardship? (b) What other passages of Scripture could you use to encourage either yourself or others when facing trials and persecutions?
8. What struggles are *you* having? What action have *you* taken? Put your need(s) in the form of a prayer request.