

W @ K L J P R Q J @ R J O U R M Q L

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

"A Godly Father's Concern"

1 Thessalonians 3:1-4

February 10 - 16, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we continue in **1 Thessalonians** where we take for our text **3:1-4**. The lesson is entitled *"A Godly Father's Concern"*. These verses express to us the concern of Paul, Silas, and Timothy for the Thessalonians. We see in this text the desire of these men and specifically that of The Apostle Paul for the spiritual well being of his children in the Lord. There is a lot for us to learn from this text regarding the attitude of true Pastor's for the people under their care. There is also a great example here to all who are fathers and leaders in the home or elsewhere as to the priority of spiritual care, concern, and the pursuit of spiritual health and maturity for those whom God has placed in their care. Read **1 Thessalonians 3:1-4**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY –The first word of chapter three is the word *"Therefore..."* which takes us back to what has been said at the close of the previous chapter and reminds us that the chapter breaks are not part of the inspired letter but added to help us navigate in the text. If you remember back Paul was speaking about his longing to see them and he also referred to them as his *"glory and joy"* and looked forward to the *"hope"* of the believer which is consummated upon their final reunion at The Lord's coming back physically to earth. You will notice the fatherly concern and affection the Apostle displays toward these people in the phrase *"...when we could no longer endure it..."* His love pours forth in an emotional cry that demonstrates he is not preoccupied with his own life's troubles (which were numerous and severe); but rather he was devoted to the well being, spiritual growth, and maturity of these people to whom God had appointed him undershepherd. His interest was in finding out how they were doing in their spiritual development. Read of the example from Paul of a Godly fatherly concern in **2 Corinthians 2:12-13, 11:28-29, 12:15**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God help me to have the type of concern demonstrated by Paul for my brothers and sisters in Jesus. Thank You for Godly examples in life.*

TUESDAY –Yesterday we spoke of the example of Paul the Apostle in his concern for the people of God under his care. We must not forget that although his example

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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was extraordinary it falls short of the sinless and perfect example of Jesus Christ. Even more specifically, it is God The Father who is the ultimate source of “*Godly concern*” for one’s children. Christ Jesus visibly displayed the affection and concern of God the Father for those who are His very own. Christ came into the world to fulfill the very plan of God to redeem a people for Himself (**Deuteronomy 9:26, 33:29, 2 Samuel 7:23-24, Titus 2:14**). The affection and concern was clearly demonstrated in that “*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” (**Romans 5:8**). God ordained the plan that would enable sinful man to be forgiven and cleansed and be brought into fellowship with Him. Jesus made it clear that God had given Him authority to “*...give eternal life to as many as You have given Him*” (**John 17:2**). Lastly, we find that all this fatherly affection and concern was visibly seen in the cross of Jesus Christ. Read **Colossians 1:19**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *O God, thank You for Your undeserved love and affection for me as a rebellious sinner. Thank You for Your concern for me demonstrated by the sacrifice of Christ in my behalf. Help me to cherish Him more and more.*

WEDNESDAY –As we get back to our text in **verse 1-2** we find that Paul not only talked about his affection for these people in Thessalonica but he demonstrated it by personal sacrifice. By doing some cross referencing (**Acts 17:14-15**) we understand that Paul was as it says in our text, “*...left in Athens alone...*” He uses the pronoun “*we*” but the context makes it clear that he is referring to himself. John MacArthur comments that “at times in his letters he (Paul) appears to have an aversion to the pronoun “I”, as if its use was a breach of his humility.” We read in our text that Paul, “*sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God*” to Thessalonica (**Acts 18:5**) to check on these believers. Paul was left “*alone*” Greek monos (alone, without a companion, forsaken) as he felt it better that his fellow laborers where deployed to carry on the work elsewhere. He remained alone, consumed with concern for these people as he was carrying out the Lord’s work in Athens. Again, Paul demonstrates “*A Godly Father’s Concern*” in his sacrifice for the spiritual well being of others. Read **Philippians 2:4**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to be one who looks out for the interests of others above myself. Help me turn to You when I’m lonely in the place You put me.*

THURSDAY –When men of God are diligent in their service to Christ and are laboring together, there is a bond that develops between them as “*fellow soldiers*”. Paul expresses some of this when he speaks about “*his true son in the faith*” Timothy. In our text he calls Timothy “*our brother*” (adelphos-born from the same womb), and “*minister of God*”. Both of these titles given to his younger protégé demonstrate the close union between these men as well as the respect Paul had for

Timothy as not only a “*brother*” but also as “*God’s fellow worker*” (NAS). Paul was a concerned father that was also humble and spoke of the tremendous value that Timothy was to him as well as to the cause of spreading and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. We see emphasized here in this text how much of a sacrifice it was for Paul to send his precious son to these people. Read of the bond between these two great men of God in **1 Corinthians 4:17, 16:10, Philippians 2:19-24**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thanks for the bond between us as true brothers and sisters in Christ. We praise You that our “birth” was Your decision (**John 1:12-13**).*

FRIDAY –We finally get to one of the main points of our text today as we focus on **verse 2b**. We mentioned briefly earlier in the week that Paul’s concern for these people was in regard to their spiritual growth and development, referenced here in the text as “*...your faith...*”. This is a litmus test as to whether one is a Godly father. Is the man concerned about the “*faith*” of his children? Many today are concerned for their children’s future, athletic career, education, income, physical health, self esteem, quality of life, etc.... The list could go on and on but I would ask you dad and mom, can you “*endure it no longer*” as Paul in our text, to find out about the spiritual state of your children? What an admonition this is in 21st century America. Paul wanted his children to be “*established and encouraged*” concerning their faith. We will see tomorrow the primary reason for this concern. May God give us parents consumed with these concerns and affections. Read **Deuteronomy 6:6-8, 20-25**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God, make me a parent, regardless of age who is concerned for the faith of my children. If you are without children ask God to help you be an example to those children you come into contact with.*

SATURDAY –Paul’s concern for the “*establishment and encouragement*” of these people’s faith was due to the fact they were apparently undergoing “*affliction*”. Paul reminds them and us that as believers we were “*appointed to this*”. “*Tribulation*” is to be expected in the Christian life as we follow the lead of our Savior Jesus. It is reassuring to know that even amidst great trial and tribulation, God is always in complete control as He orchestrates all things for our good and His glory. Remember He is always with us and will never leave or forsake you as a true child of His. Read **John 15:18-20, Acts 14:21-22, Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5-6**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, help me remember that I am eternally secure in Your hand. Help me be faithful to turn to Your Word and feed upon it for strength, encouragement, and all I need to live a life pleasing to You.*