

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

"A Look Inside a Man of God"

1 Thessalonians 3:5-10

February 17 - 23, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we continue in **1 Thessalonians 3** and we will look at **verses 5-10**. We continue with the focus of last week’s lesson of **“A Godly Father’s Concern”** as in this lesson we will **“look inside”** if you will the heart of a man of God; namely, The Apostle Paul and his co-laborers in the gospel. These verses convey to us and elaborate how the concern Paul, Silas, and Timothy had for the Thessalonians actually expressed itself into everyday living and the things these men did. There are lessons abounding in this text not only for pastors but for all of us who are in the family of God. Read **1 Thessalonians 3: 5-10**.

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 –In **verse 5** we learn that Paul was so concerned about these people in Thessalonica, that **“...I sent to know your faith...”** If you remember from last week’s study the Apostle was separated from these people and he was deeply concerned about them. We see his heart of concern displayed in the fact he **“sent”** Timothy (**vs. 6**) who no doubt was a great help and encouragement to him but instead was needed in this case as a trustworthy messenger so Paul sacrificed his own interests for others. Paul was wondering how these people were fairing under the tribulations he mentioned in the previous verses. He was concerned that the enemy, **“...the tempter...”** namely Satan had assaulted these people influencing them to reject the Gospel truth that had been preached to them. Satan always attempts to turn people from the Word of Truth and uses every means available to him for this end. Scripture is full of warnings regarding Satan’s work against the Kingdom of God. Read **Matthew 13:19-21, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 1 Peter 5:8**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father I thank You that ultimately Satan is under Your Sovereign control. Use Your Word to break down the fortresses of the enemy and save many souls from sin. Help me spread the Word of Truth.*

TUESDAY –In yesterday’s lesson we mentioned Paul’s concern that the **“tempter”** may have tempted these people and that they truly had not embraced the gospel and been converted. We saw in the Scripture that the enemy is constantly out to steal the seed of the Word and has blinded the hearts and minds of people who are dead in their sin. Paul sent Timothy that he might, **“...know your faith...”** Even if we are true believers we are not exempt from attacks of the enemy. Satan not only attempts to

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

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

keep people from seeing the beauty of Christ and His gospel and be saved, he also attempts to keep believers from seeing the beauty of Christ and following Him in obedience as well as continuing to trust in Him alone for deliverance. Satan wants men to think they have something good in and of themselves to add or put toward their salvation. Satan is an incredibly fierce foe. This is why Jesus taught us to pray, "...lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil (the evil one)". We are warned as believers in the Scripture to be serious minded in regards to this fatally serious battle that rages. The Christian life is a life of warfare. In war there is pain, fighting, and sad but true, there are casualties. May we take heed to run to Jesus for deliverance and avoid being one who believed "in vain." Read **Romans 11:19-23, Galatians 4:8-11, 5:4.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: O God, help me to always trust Jesus alone for salvation. Help me cherish & obey Him. Keep, protect, & preserve me by Your great power!

WEDNESDAY –We are encouraged as was Paul when we read in **verse 6** that Timothy returned with "good news" of the "faith and love" of these people. Timothy's report to the Apostle was full of positive affirmations that these people truly had been born again and were following Christ in obedience. They were evidencing that they were true Christians with a genuine "faith" in Christ which produced the "love" (for the Lord and other believers) which all true sons of God possess. The verse also says that they, "...always have good remembrance of us..." What is expressed here is that these people thought kindly toward Paul and his fellow ministers and this would alleviate Paul's concern that they were confident in his call as an Apostle of Jesus. These folks also, "greatly desired" to see the Apostle, who could be considered their spiritual father. We will see tomorrow that Paul was relieved to hear this good report from Timothy. Today, read these Scriptures which speak of evidences in the lives of true believers: **Psalms 5:11, John 8:42, 13:34-35, Romans 13:8-10.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: Enable me Father to live these truths out, as Augustine said, "O God, command what you wouldst, and grant what thou dost command."

THURSDAY –In **verse 7** we see the relief expressed in Paul which was illustrated by the title of last week's lesson, "A Godly Father's Concern". We read, "in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith." In all the trials, persecutions, and troubles Paul was facing (**2 Corinthians 4:7-12**) he found his anxiety concerning these; his spiritual children removed when he heard of their true, saving "faith". What a joy to his heart to hear the report from Timothy concerning the legitimate faith of these dear people he cared for so much. A Godly father rejoices when his children "walk in truth" (**2 John 4, 3 John 3-4**), and at the same time he is concerned and even "downcast" to see them not walking in obedience to Christ (**2 Corinthians 7:6-7**). There is a sense of responsibility and

attachment to these people from Paul that we should learn from and emulate with our children and those we have influence and contact with.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Father, make me a parent who is concerned for the spiritual well being of my children. May You grant me a desire to above all else see them live a life that glorifies Your holy name.

FRIDAY – **Verse 8** is summarized well by Albert Barnes. "For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord." This is equivalent to saying, "My life and comfort depend on your stability in the faith, and your correct Christian walk." Non est vivere, sed valere, vita--" Life consists not merely in living, but in the enjoyment of health." The meaning here is, that Paul now enjoyed life; he had that which constituted real life, in the fact that they acted as became Christians, and so as to show that his labour among them had not been in vain. The same thing here affirmed is true of all faithful ministers of the gospel. They feel that they have something that may be called life, and that is worth living for, when those to whom they preach maintain a close walk with God." This is my prayer as a minister of the gospel. Ask yourself what kind of affect your life is having on those who the Lord has put over you as His ministers? Are you growing in Christ and making the life of your leaders a joy? Read **Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: Father in heaven, help me to be like Christ and grow in Him with my actions and attitudes so as to glorify You as well as be an encouragement to those You have appointed to "watch over my soul".

SATURDAY – In **verses 9-10** we find that Paul finds it hard to even express in words the gratitude he feels for the growth of these people. He says their faith leaves him at a loss to find words of thanks to God that would be equivalent to the joy their faith has brought him. He then even amidst "rejoicing" over them turns to intercessory prayer on their behalf. True Godly parents, pastors, and leaders realize that all the growth in lives is a gift from God and we are commanded to pray that God would grant these things in the lives of His people. These dear people were not yet in heaven and not yet glorified but they were in the process of sanctification and their beloved earthly "father in the faith" was holding them before the throne of grace in prayer. Notice Paul's prayer was continual and earnest ("night and day praying exceedingly"), and also that his goal was to see them be completed ("perfect") in their faith. Read of the ultimate example of care, concern, and prayer for one's "children": **John 10:11-16, 27-28, 17:6-26.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for Your example of prayer and concern for me as Your child. Help me to pray for my brothers and sisters and show true love and concern for them through my actions.