

1-2 Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 3: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13
(week of September 25)

Verse to remember - 1 Thessalonians 3:13

“May God so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

Gathering

Opening Prayer

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:10

1. Paul says that he wanted to visit the Thessalonians, but “Satan blocked our way.” (The Greek word here means to cut up a road to make it impassable.) How might this have happened? What is your response when activity like this is attributed to Satan (or to the Holy Spirit - see Acts 16:6-10)?

(By “crown of boasting” Paul probably had in mind the laurel wreaths given to the winner of a race or other competition.)

2. Paul envisions the Thessalonian believers as his “crown of boasting” before the Lord at his return - evidence to present to Jesus of his faithful service. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, and reflect on what might be your “crown of boasting” at the Lord’s return.
3. What is Paul primarily concerned about, which motivated him to send Timothy to Thessalonica? (See 3:2, 5). (If you came up with a one-word answer, try to define or explain it.)
4. Jesus taught the inevitability of persecution, and Paul followed suit (3:3 - “this is what we are destined for”). Why should this be so? Do you experience this truth in your life? (See Matthew 5:11, John 15:20, 16:33; Acts 14:22, Romans 8:17, Phil. 1:29, 2 Tim 3:12.)

5. Paul says that he was afraid that the “tempter had tempted” the Thessalonian believers to fall away from faith. The word “tempt” can also mean “test.” Reflect on the difference between tempting and testing. (See 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:12-15 if you want some help - or if you want to confuse things even more!)

6. Paul tells the Thessalonians, “We now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord.” (This might mean something like, “We can breathe again, knowing you are standing firm.”) Why might Paul have been so affected by their standing firm (or falling away from) faith? Have you ever experienced this kind of reaction to another person’s faith (or falling away)?

7. Paul wants to “restore” what is lacking in the Thessalonians’ faith (3:10). This word can also mean “to put in order, to mend, to equip, or to make complete.” What do you understand Paul to be communicating in this verse?

8. What are Paul’s three prayer requests in 3:11-13? Why might he have prayed for these things specifically?

9. Questions for personal application.
What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

Closing prayer (Suggestion: pray for one another the prayer that Paul prayed for the Thessalonians in 3:11-13.)