

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY
MEN ^{OF} THE WORD
MEN'S MINISTRY
2021-2022

1 Thessalonians - "The Coming of the Lord"

Session 7

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (NKJV)

"Establishing our faith"

In light of the persecution the church was facing, from both man and devil, Paul was desperate enough to check on the Thessalonians that he was willing to be left alone himself and send Timothy, that he might be sure that they were "established" (strengthened; made firm) in their faith. He didn't want the church thinking the afflictions they were facing were something unusual for Christians, and so be shaken in their faith.

Do you ever feel like your reeling from one tribulation to another in your life, to the point where you think that maybe you're not a real Christian or that somehow you are doing something wrong? Allow this passage to erase your doubt, and "establish you and encourage you concerning your faith."

Personal Study Time Questions:

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2a

Paul has just covered two areas in which we as Christian face afflictions in this life; from our fellow man (2:14) and from the devil (2:18). These are serious battles that should not be taken lightly. How does Paul "therefore" express his concern for the Thessalonians, and what was he willing to do in light of it?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:2b

What was Paul's purpose in sending Timothy to them? Look up the words "establish" and "encourage." What does it add to your understanding of what we need to have in the face of the battles we face?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4; 1 Peter 4:12-14

What do we need to “know” so we are not “shaken” by the afflictions we face in our walk of faith? What did Peter have to say about it? What did Peter say we should do in light of our trials, and why?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:4; Acts 20:24

What did Paul say “before” to them about the subject of suffering tribulation? What example of faith did Paul set for them and us in his response to his own tribulations in Acts 20? What was his point of focus; his priority?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:5

What does this verse tell you is the place the “tempter” is going to attack us at to ruin our testimony for Jesus; that area that Paul was so desperate to know about?

Group Discussion:

This passage makes it clear that the effective work of God’s word in our life (2:13) is the building up of our faith in Jesus. Our enemy the devil wants to undermine that faith. One of the ways he will try to do so is to isolate us, as was shown in chapter 2, verse 18. What does this say about how important our fellowship together in the Word is? How are we established and encouraged in our faith when we come together and talk about what God’s Word says about us and our life in Christ, and how we can apply it to our lives?

Hiding God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

1 Peter 5:8-9