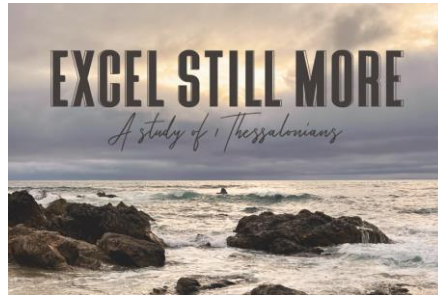


# DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



**October 15, 2023**

**1 Thessalonians 3**

**Faithful Ministry**

## **Main Idea:**

Knowing that the Thessalonians believers continued to suffer for their faith in Christ. Paul and Silas sent Timothy back to them to strengthen and encourage them. Upon Timothy's return, he reported that the Thessalonians were standing firm in spite of the persecution and hardship that had overtaken them. The good news encouraged Paul and Silas, and along with Timothy they gave God thanks as the fervently prayed for the believers. The occasion reveals, through the compassion, courage and convictions of the missionaries, five characteristics of faithful pastoral ministry.

## **Outline:**

### 5 Characteristics of Faithful Pastoral Ministry

- 1) Faithful pastors and elders love the local church
- 2) Faithful pastors and elders are committed to providing for the spiritual needs of the flock
- 3) Faithful spiritual leaders provide care for the flock that is motivated by genuine, loving concern
- 4) Faithful pastors and elders are energized by the spiritual victories of those they minister to
- 5) Faithful spiritual leaders are deeply committed to praying for the Lord's church

## Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 When it comes to love, actions often speak louder than words. What actions did the missionaries take that proved their love for the Thessalonian believers?

#2 Paul sent Timothy back to strengthen and encourage the believers as to their faith (V. 2). Although complementary, these two tasks were not exactly the same – how did they differ?

#3 What was Timothy's ministry of strengthening and encouraging designed to do?

How can believers today be prepared to bear up under persecution and suffering?

#4 How does the enemy seek to exploit suffering in the lives of believers?

What did he try to tempt the Thessalonians to do?

How can we stand firm when he attacks in this way?

#5 What was the substance of the good news Timothy reported back about the believers?

What do you think enabled them to stand firm?

#6 Do the spiritual victories of your brothers and sisters in Christ energize your faith? How/why?