

More
Is There More?

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 “Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God’s co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him **to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through.** But you know that we are destined for such troubles. Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know. That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.”

“Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, and we sent Timothy to visit you.”

“The Southern Baptist Convention’s peak membership was **16.2 million in 2006**. In **2022**, it was **13.2 million**. ***Even more telling are the attendance numbers. The SBC’s peak weekly attendance was 6.2 million in 2009. By 2022, weekly attendance declined to 3.8 million.*** That decline in attendance is almost **40% in 13 years!**” **Thom Rainer**

To _____ Them “We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith...” (v.2b)

Acts 14:21-22 “After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, ***where they strengthened the believers.*** They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.”

To _____ Them in the Their Faith “...to encourage you in your faith,” (v.2c)

Jude 3-4 “Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives.”

Hebrews 11:6 “And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

To _____ Them From Being Shaken by Troubles “...and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through.” (V.3)

1 Thessalonians 3:4 “Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know.”

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”