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instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nertures her own Children. We cared so much for yo that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own ling, because you had become dear to us. For you remember by labor and hardship, brothers and Sisters. Working right and day so that we any of you, we preached God's one witnesses, and so is God, of Now deroutly, nghtcourly, and blanclessly we conduct Know, l W.S.

*TO THE CHURCH OF* 

encara

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# THESSALONIANS,

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fre word of will De Saved. from 43, you whend it not as a himon message, but as it study is, the word of Good, which also works effectively in you who believe. For you, brothers and sisters, beleane invitations of Guals churches in christ ferres that are in fideo, since you have also suffered the save things from people of you own country, just as for nothing. But now from you and brough faith and love. He v have good memories see us, as we also be brothers and sisters affliction, he were you faith. For now in the Lord. How can

<sup>17</sup> But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, <sup>18</sup> because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

# **Textual Commentary:**

 "torn away" - some translations say "orphaned"

- Brothers
- eagerly / great desire
- We  $\rightarrow$  I = personalizing his affection

return to them

Pouring out his affection for them

• His heart is still with them

- Paul is battling Satan in his attempt to

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<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

### **Textual Commentary:**

When Jesus comes back, what will be the hope, joy and glory that we going to **boast** about?

• You!

Crown of boasting before the Lord • Love God by loving His people • What greater love is there for His people than to strengthen their faith?

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup>

and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.

<sup>4</sup> For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.



### **Textual Commentary:**

- Break this up into 3 chunks
- Chunks • Theological term for breaking scripture into digestible segments

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### **Textual Commentary:**

- "Therefore"

   Based on his love for these people
   They could bear it no more
- "For" ∘ S ∘ P
  - Supporting what is above
    Paul could bear it no longer

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### **Textual Commentary:**

- The plan
- As what?
- How? • By exhorting them

- Send Timothy

### God's coworker

- To do what?
  - Further establish the
    - Thessalonians faith

2:15-17 ... "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"

1:2... "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

James 2:15-17 & 1:



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<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—<sup>7</sup> for this reason, brothers, [b] in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.

### **Textual Commentary:**

- - strong.
- His people had not forgotten him or what
  - he taught them
- His people longed to see him as well

- Timothy Returned with Good News
  - The faith of his people had remained

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### **Textual Commentary:**

- Orchestrate a reunion
- That they enter the kingdom of heaven

Paul's requests to the Lord

Increase their love for one another

ar God and farmer he your labor motiindustance insplured by For we know, brothers at he has chosen you ome to you in word only, Spirit, and with full red among you for thes be came initators n soite of severe pernessage with boy from

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# "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."

**SD GORDON** 

66

### 1. Pray ... but **DO NOT JUST PRAY**.

- Take action
- Exhort them
- Further establish their faith
- BECOME A COWORKER OF GOD!
- God prepared you for this exact moment
- Go!



### **2. Prepare for Tribulation**

- It is coming
- Utilize the full power of the living word of God
- Store God's word in your heart ... commit it to memory
- This is what God says ... and this is what He means
- Surround yourself with people who will establish and exhort you



### iod t to memory e means ablish and exhort you

### 3. Walk Through the Trial

- You have the tools
- You have been prepared
- Go to scripture
- Pray the scripture
- Stop begging for it to pass
- Submit to God and how He is molding you through the trial
- He is making you more like Jesus



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