

TO THE CHURCH OF THE

THESSALONIANS,

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE





John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me
you may have peace. In the world
you will have tribulation.

But take heart;
I have overcome the world.

John 15:20

...‘A servant is not greater than his master.’
If they persecuted me,
they will also persecute you ...

Matthew 5:10

Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 13:13

And you will be hated

by all for my name's sake.

**But the one who endures to the end
will be saved.**

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

¹⁷ 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**,¹⁸ because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but **Satan hindered us.**

Textual Commentary:

Pouring out his affection for them

- “torn away” - some translations say **“orphaned”**
- Brothers
- His heart is still with them
- eagerly / great desire
- We → I = personalizing his affection

Paul is battling Satan in his attempt to return to them

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1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ 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?**

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

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

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

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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”
 - Supporting what is above
 - Paul could bear it no longer

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Textual Commentary:

- The plan
 - Send Timothy
- As what?
 - **God's coworker**
- To do what?
 - Further establish the Thessalonians faith
- How?
 - By exhorting them

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 & 1:2

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1 Thessalonians 3: 6-7

⁶ 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—⁷ for this reason, brothers,^[b] in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.

Textual Commentary:

Timothy Returned with Good News

- The faith of his people had remained strong.
- His people had not forgotten him or what he taught them
- His people longed to see him as well

1 Thessalonians 3: 11-13

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, **direct our way to you,** ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in **love for one another** and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ 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:

Paul's requests to the Lord

- Orchestrate a reunion
- Increase their love for one another
- That they enter the kingdom of heaven

LIVE THE TEXT

“

*“You can do more than pray
after you have prayed,
but you cannot do more than pray
until you have prayed.”*

SD GORDON

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!

LIVE THE TEXT

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

LIVE THE TEXT

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

LIVE THE TEXT

our God and Father,
by your labor moti-
vated by
For we know, brothers
that he has chosen you
to you in word only,
Spirit, and with full
among you for
lives became imitators
in spite of severe per-
message with joy from
you became an example
Adonia and Achana.
g out from you not only
in every place
gave out. Therefore
g, for they themselves
we had from you:
idols to serve the
wait for his Son from
om the dead—Jesus,
ing wrath. For you
d sisters, that our
not result. On the

Become a Coworker of God

Instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse
nurtures her own children. We cared so much for
you that we were pleased to share with you not
only the gospel of God but also our own lives,
because they had become dear to us. For you re-
member by labor and hardship, brothers and
sisters. We were not ashamed that we
would not burden any of you; we preached God's
gospel to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of
how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we
conducted ourselves with you believers. As you
know, like a father his own children, we
encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of
you to walk worthy of God, who calls you
to holiness and good works. For this is the
will of God, your sanctification, that you may
obey the word of God that you heard from us, you
welcomed it not as a human message, but as
it truly is, the word of God, which also
works effectively in you who believe. For you,
brothers and sisters, became imitators of
God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea,
since you have also suffered the same things
from people of your own country, just as

presence of the Lord
not you? Indeed you
fore, when we could
it was better to be
we sent Timothy,
in the gospel of Christ
age you concerning
will be shaken by
yourselves know that
In fact, when we were
advance that we were
ction, and as you know
when I could no longer
find out about you to
tempted you
But now
from you and brought
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in the Lord. How can