

1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Grow in faith & love

GOOD NEWS FOR PAUL'S HEART

- Only two places where the world for good news does not refer to the gospel (Rev. 7:10)
- The faith and love of the Church refreshed and rejuvenated Paul
- Their young faith was not shaken by the conflict and pressures
- Their young love for the gospel, love for each other and love for the world was intact
- This encouraged Paul with new life, the good news balanced out his troubles
- It put new life and new Spirit by hearing the growth and consistency in spite of trials
- Paul was experiencing distress and affliction from outward calamity
- This church ministered to Paul, not in gifts but in their walk and belief
- They evangelized his heart to keep going
- It gave him new vitality up to its full and proper use, his cup got filled up
- Paul's prayers for them are noted with pure joy and thanks, hands lifted high
- The prayers he offers for them are constant, not in the sense in times of day
- When you have to spend more time thanking him in prayer than confessing its good
- He desire to fill up what is lacking, correct, restore, equip for faith
- To put into unified and good working condition
- They were not perfect and still young and flawed, but huge things were happening

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THEIR HEARTS

- The first request before God for the Thessalonica was to see them again
- Paul knew it would have to be God that got them back with this church
- It means to make straight the path, remove the obstacles that Satan uses
- This is an intercessory prayer and thanksgiving prayer
- May the Lord increase - to make more, cause to overflow
- May the Lord abound the current love for each other and all people (lost)
- It means to increase in selfless duration to one another
- This is not meant in a season sense but in a permanent, from now own sense
- He prays for their hearts to be established/firm in these days, blameless
- Because the Lord will return (parousia) and wants to present a spotless bride
- How do you present blameless, an overflow of love is the agent that gets to holiness
- It is not perfection in the sense of obedience but continual growth in faith & love
- Not perfect but wonderfully working for the Lord
- "With all His saints" is debated in meaning by different end times positions
- The overall idea is He will return and we will leave with Him in the end
- You can be a faithful and loving church with deficiencies