

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Timothy's mission

DANGER OF AFFLICTION

- Paul sends Timothy because he could not longer cover his emotions
- Though Timothy was younger, he was called brother in equal ministry
- Paul understood that Timothy was tried and tested through the same things
- Paul sends him to do those two church things: edify and encourage
- He is to strengthen/ to make stable/ to firm up their faith
- How does that happen, by encourage/ exhort/ console/ to come to one's side
- You need both, one needs the other. To choose faith and practice faith
- Christ's C's : *converted, confirmed, comforted*
- So that the Church would not be disturbed/ not to be unsettled or shaken
- They had already experienced obstacles & conflict, it wasn't going away
- The stiffest test of our faith comes in the form of suffering/affliction
- Paul wanted them to endure because we are marked out by God for affliction
- Acts 17:3-6 plays this out, Christian faith begins with pain and a cross
- Other consider us 'foolish', other religions begin with transcendence
- Our begins with a sacrifice and ends in perfect union (parousia)
- Don't lose ground, faith can suffer and shrink back

DANGER OF SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS

- It is appointed by God to permit Satan to work in this world
- Satan attempts to **discourage** and the other killer D's
- Remember that God is the orchestrator, not the devil
- Satan attacks the physical to **destroy** and **defeat** the spiritual
- Affliction makes the kingdom of God physical and testimonial
- There is a redemptive power in suffering
- God permits satan to take us to task and when we endure, we *conquer* those works
- Christ laid down his life for us, so we could lay down our lives for one another
- Paul fore-warns them and fore-arms them to be ready
- There is a reality that faith can grow cold and soft
- Paul sees his labor as in vain if that were to happen in Thessalonica
- Through many afflictions we must enter into the kingdom of God
- It is ok to pray our faith won't fail today, to understand this is our lot in life
- James 1:2-5 lets us understand we are saved through suffering
- Let's not shake our fist at God in temptation, but run to Him to endure the testing
- In temptation I pray my faith does not fail and I shrink back in my labors