



What Should We Expect this Season?  
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

## ADVENT 2021

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**We should expect some pressure this season.**

Verses 1-5:

**Text Message:**

- Two times (Verses 3-4), Paul refers to the “affliction(s)” the believers at Thessalonica were experiencing.
- The historical account of this affliction is found in Acts 17, which included a mob and Jason being dragged in the streets!
- The Greek word used here is *thlipsis* (θλιψις). It is often translated “tribulation” and gives a picture of something being pressed together, as in grapes for the making of wine.
- We should always keep in mind the reality of persecution:
  - 1) Believers are never promised a persecution-free life.
  - 2) Some type of persecution (*thlipsis*) will come to every believer!  
Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... 2 Timothy 3:12
- While our pressure this season will probably not be the pressure of persecution, this tends to be a season of pressure!
- *If the question is not if we will face pressure this season but when, how can we best not get sidetracked by this?*

**We should expect comfort and joy this season.**

Verses 6-10:

**Text Message:**

- *Isn't this what we sing of this season?*
- Our text today, on the one hand, speaks of pressure, while on the other, speaks of experiencing comfort and joy!
- For every pressure (*thlipsis*) we may face, we can experience God's comfort and joy in the Holy Spirit!
- Even today, the number one prayer request of the persecuted church **is not** for comfort and joy (they already have that!) but strength in persecution!
- Church history is filled with the persecuted who had the supernatural comfort and joy of the Holy Spirit in persecution, even to the point of martyrdom!
- If God's comfort and joy can be experience in such extreme pressure, does it not make sense that God will meet us in whatever pressure we experience in this life?
- God's comfort and joy is not a faucet but a fountain!

**We should expect Jesus this season.**

Verses 11-13:

**Text Message:**

- In his blessing (benediction) to the church, the apostle Paul ends with these words:  
<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.
- We are in the first Sunday of Advent (“Coming”) and live in the celebration of Jesus' first coming to earth **and** the anticipation of Jesus' Second Coming!
- Notice how text tells us to live in expectation of Jesus' coming. It is not by:
  - 1) Research so we can pinpoint exactly when...
  - 2) Trying to “puzzle-piece” the latest news into the book of Revelation.
- **But** to be established in holiness before our God and Father!
- May we say *Amen* (So be it!) and *Maranatha* (Come, Lord!)