

Text:

I Thessalonians 3:1-13

Title:

A Pastor's Heart For God's People

Main Point:

Christian love prioritizes the spiritual well-being of others.

Main points:

1. A Godly Concern
2. An Encouraging Report
3. An Urgent Prayer

Quote 1 (in point 1)

I Peter 4:12 – *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”*

Quote 2 (in point 1)

“The question is not whether or not we will face trials but whether or not we will be faithful in confronting trials. In the end I Peter 3:1-5 turns the ‘health and wealth gospel’ on its head and contends that the church will not be spiritually healthy unless it goes through trial and persecution, which may entail the loss of health, wealth, and material possessions.”

- G.K. Beale (from *1-2 Thessalonians*)

Quote 3 (in point 2)

Romans 5:3-5 – *“More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been give to us.”*

Quote 4 (in point 2)

“How much would our churches be transformed if each of us made it a practice to thank God for others and then to tell these others what it is about them that we thank God for?”

- D.A. Carson (from *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*)