

## 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 **Inquiry of welfare of Thessalonians – Desire to be with them**

### Reason for sending Timothy – To establish the Church

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. <sup>4</sup> For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

### Rejoicing over Timothy's report

<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you - <sup>7</sup> therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

### Great desire for the Thessalonians

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, <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 Christ with all His saints.

NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Reason for sending Timothy – To establish the Church [1 Thessalonians 3:1-5]

- ✚ In Thessalonica Paul and company also encountered much opposition such that the opposing Thessalonians even followed them to Berea and drove them out to Athens. [Acts 17:1-16]
- ✚ The believing Thessalonians were aware of the abuse at Philippi, and were witnesses of the abuse at Thessalonica. [1 Thessalonians 2:1-2]
- ✚ While waiting in Athens, Paul became increasingly anxious to learn how the new believers in Thessalonica were able to stand in the faith in the area that had raised such persecution that it caused Paul and company to flee to a foreign city.
  - ✚ Therefore Paul sent Timothy, whose father was Greek, to Thessalonica in Macedonia to learn of the state of the Church there and to determine if their suffering at the hands of the Thessalonians was in vain.
  - ✚ Timothy is regarded as a minister of God who was a faithful brother and fellow laborer in the Gospel of Christ.
  - ✚ Timothy was sent to establish the Church and encourage their faith.
  - ✚ The fear was that the Thessalonians might be shaken by all the afflictions, though Paul had taught them that they were appointed to tribulation, just as the Thessalonians saw that it happened.
  - ✚ Paul was concerned that the tempter had tempted the Thessalonians, thus nullifying his effectiveness among them.

#### Rejoicing over Timothy's report [1 Thessalonians 3:6-10]

✚ When Timothy returned to Paul he brought a glowing report that caused Paul and company great rejoicing as he reported the good news of the faith and love of the Thessalonians and that they always have good remembrance of Paul and company, and greatly desire to see them again as much as Paul and company desire to see the Thessalonians.

✧ Paul said, "therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith."

✧ Paul wrote, "For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?" [[1 Thessalonians 3:8-10](#)]

### Great desire for the Thessalonians [[1 Thessalonians 3:11-13](#)]

✚ Paul expresses his great desire for the Thessalonians that can only be accomplished by our God and Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

✧ May the Lord direct our way to you.

✧ May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as Paul and company abound in love for the Thessalonians.

✧ The final goal is that the Lord may establish the hearts of the Thessalonians blameless in holiness before our God and Father.

✧ And that they will be found so at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [[1 Thessalonians 3:13](#), [Matthew 24:46](#), [Luke 12:43](#)]

✧ When He comes with all His Saints.

✧ When the Lord comes, He comes with all His Saints as the armies in Heaven follow Him. [[Revelation 19:11-16](#), [Jude 1:14-15](#), [Zechariah 14:5](#)]