

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3

1. Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone,

A. Therefore,

B. when we could no longer endure it,

1. **endure-** Gr. **stego-** *to bear up against, hold out against, and so endure, bear, forbear*

a. This shows his intense desire to see the Thessalonians again and see how they were doing.

C. we thought it good to be left in Athens alone,

1. **thought it good-** Gr. **eudokeo-** *to seem good*

a. When this term is used it speaks of being led by the inward witness of the Spirit.

2. **left-** Gr. **kataleipo-** *to leave behind*

3. **Athens-** means *uncertainty*

a. Paul and Silas were left uncertain about the state of the Thessalonians after they had to leave. They stayed in uncertainty while they waited for Timothy to visit there and come back with a report about them.

4. **alone-** Gr. **monos**

a. Paul said "we" thought it good to be left alone. The "we" he was referring to himself and Silas. Obviously, Paul had picked up Timothy on his ministry team when he was in the region of Galatia, which is where he was from.

b. Paul never traveled alone if he could at all help it. Paul always worked in a framework of a team. This is important for a solid ministry.

2. 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,

A. and set Timothy,

1. **Timothy-** means *one who honors God*

a. Paul could trust Timothy because he sought to honor God

not seek honor for himself. [Phil. 2:20-21](#) Paul sent Timothy on important ministry assignments to Thessalonica, Corinth, Phillipi, and finally Ephesus.

B. our brother and minister of God,

1. brother- Gr. adelphos

a. Paul maintained a family first model of ministry. [Phil. 2:17](#) - [brother, worker, soldier] He calls Timothy in this verse first a brother before he calls him a minister and a fellow laborer.

Paul esteemed his relationship with Timothy and his welfare before what he could do for him in ministry.

b. Often churches put the work of the ministry before relationship with those in the ministry, who happen to be either their brothers or sisters. They often will use people for the ministry, instead of making sure they are ministering to them first and foremost.

c. If you are working in a church and your leader never asks about you and how you are doing, then you are in worker culture church, not a family first culture church.

d. If you are asked and expected to work untold hours and give up your free time with family and for yourself then you are in a worker culture church, not a family first culture church.

2. minister- Gr. diakonos- *one who runs through a dusty road to serve, one who stirs up the dust*

C. and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ,

1. fellow laborer- Gr. sunergos

a. Paul called Epaphroditus my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier. He called Timothy my brother, minister, fellow laborer. Again, Paul put relationship before what people could or would do for him in ministry. He showed care for them before asking them to do things. People will go to the ends of the world with you and for you if they know you genuinely care for them and have their best interest at heart.

2. gospel- Gr. euaggelion

D. to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith

1. establish- Gr. sterizo

a. We will only be established by grace through faith. [Heb. 13:9, Acts 20:32](#)

2. **encourage**- Gr. **parakaleo**- *to exhort*

3. **faith**- Gr. **pistis**

a. By faith we stand! [2 Cor. 1:24](#)

3. that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

A. that no one should be shaken by these afflictions;

1. **shaken**- Gr. **saino**- *to be forcibly moved back and forth like a tail being wagged, agitated*

a. Satan wants to send affliction to you so he can wag you like a dog does its tail. Instead you need to be the tail that wags the dog by standing firm in God's grace and faith!

2. **afflictions**- Gr. **thlipsis**- *crushing pressure from all sides*

a. This is pressure people put on us.

b. Many of the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers out of them all. [Psa 34:19](#)

B. for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this

1. **know**- Gr. **eido**

2. **appointed**- Gr. **keimi**- *to lay out, or set out*

a. It is very important to take scripture in context. Some might read this and see the problems they are experiencing in their life as having been appointed for them. **NO!**

b. Paul here is saying that he was appointed to be a preacher of the gospel and go into dark places in which the light he would bring would be fought against. This is what he is speaking of. They were afflictions from preaching the gospel- not sickness, poverty, failure, accidents, and disasters! You are not appointed for these! They are works of Satan. Stand and resist them! If you are appointed to go into dark regions where Christ has not been preached in which Satan has a foothold you can expect some afflictions to come along with preaching the gospel. Try going to North Korea and preaching the gospel and not have any afflictions. I don't think so! Also, those who

would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. [2 Tim. 3:12](#) People who love the darkness will fight against your light.

4. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

A. For,

B. in fact,

C. we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation,

1. suffer tribulation- Gr. **thlibo-** *to incur pressure*

a. This was not new information to Paul. He knew from the very beginning of his ministry call that he would encounter sufferings associated with his call. [Acts 9:16](#), [Acts 14:22](#) I am sure Ananias communicated this to him.

D. just as it happened,

E. and you know

1. know- Gr. **eido**

5. 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.

A. For this reason,

B. when I could no longer endure it,

1. endure- Gr. **stego**

C. I sent to know your faith,

1. sent- Gr. **pempo**

2. know- Gr. **ginosko-** *new or ongoing knowledge*

3. faith- Gr. **pistis**

D. lest by some means the tempter had tempted you,

1. tempter- Gr. **peirazo-** *the tempting one*

2. tempted- Gr. **peirazo-** *to test to cause to fail or break*

E. and our labor might be in vain

1. labor- Gr. **kopos-** *hard work that fatigues*

a. The ministry is spelled **W.O.R.K.**, but it does not seem like it when you serve those who are dear to you.

2. **vain**- Gr. **kenos**- *empty, for no purpose*

a. This is not the first church that he feared that he had labored in vain over. [Gal 4:11](#), [Php 2:16](#)

b. The work of the gospel is made vain if we do not continue in faith in Christ.

6. 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—

A. But now that Timothy has come to us from you,

1. **come**- Gr. **erchomai**

B. and brought us good news of your faith and love,

1. **brought good news**- Gr. **euaggelizo**- *to bring the good news*

a. This is the exact same Greek word for preaching the Gospel used in the NT.

b. This is an example how the word "gospel" was used in the day. It meant good news!

2. **faith**- Gr. **pistis**

a. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **love**- Gr. **agape**

a. The love of God was shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit when we believed.

C. and that you always have a good remembrance of us,

1. **good**- Gr. **agathos**- *divine good, intrinsic goodness*

2. **remembrance**- Gr. **mneia**

D. greatly desiring to see us,

1. **greatly desiring**- Gr. **epipotheo**

a. Their mutual love and affection had not cooled since they were separated from Paul.

2. **see**- Gr. **eido**

E. as we also to see you

7. therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.

A. therefore,

B. brethren,

C. in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.

1. **affliction-** Gr. **thlipsis-** *pressure from all sides*

2. **distress-** Gr. **anagke-** *constraint*

3. **comforted-** Gr. **parakaleo-** *exhorted, encouraged*

a. God can provide a level of comfort greater than any amount of affliction the enemy can throw at us. [2 Cor. 1:3-5](#)

4. **faith-** Gr. **pistis-** *firm persuasion*

8. For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

A. For now we live,

1. **live-** Gr. **zao**

a. Obviously, Paul speaks this metaphorically. He is saying here he was filled with new zest and energy because he heard they were doing well.

B. if you stand fast in the Lord

1. **stand fast-** Gr. **steko**

a. We stand by faith in God's grace.

2. **Lord-** Gr. **kurios**

a. We are stand in the Lord and not upon our performance or what we deserve.

9. For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,

A. For what thanks can we render to God for you,

1. **thanks-** Gr. **eucharisteo-** *to give good grace*

2. **render-** Gr. **antapodidomi-** *to repay, give back, return, recompense*

a. Thanksgiving is returned grace to God.

B. for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God.

1. **joy-** Gr. **chara**

a. This is a fruit of grace.

2. **rejoice-** Gr. **chairo**

10. night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

A. **night-** Gr. **nux**

B. **day-** Gr. **hemera**

1. Again, in the Jewish mind the night came before the day. We see this in Genesis 1.

C. **praying-** Gr. **deomai**

1. In looking at Paul's writings you can't miss the fact that Paul had a robust prayer life. Prayer is the language of dependence and is how we draw upon the grace of God by faith.

D. **exceedingly-** Gr. **huper ek perissos**

E. **see-** Gr. **eido**

F. **face-** Gr. **prosopon**

G. **perfect-** Gr. **katarizo-** *to strengthen, perfect, complete, to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust*

H. **lacking-** Gr. **husterema**

1. Our faith will only be as full as our knowledge is of the Word of God is. Paul here is referring to perfecting their knowledge of the Lord as Barnabas was instructed more perfectly in the way of the Lord.

I. **faith-** Gr. **pistis**

11. Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.

A. **Now may our God and Father Himself,**

B. **and our Lord Jesus Christ,**

1. We find in the NT that God the Father and Jesus Christ often share in the same action. This shows that Jesus Christ is God as well as the Father is God.

C. direct our way to you.

1. **direct-** Gr. **kateuthuno-** *to guide straight toward or upon anything, and the removal of the hindrances to coming to one*

a. Whatever had been the hinderances to Paul coming to them, he prayed God would remove them so he could come straight to them.

b. If there are impediments in your way don't try to move them yourself. Trust God to move them or give you a green light to move them yourself.

2. **way-** Gr. **hodos-** *path, road*

12. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you,

A. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all,

1. **make increase-** Gr. **pleonazo-** *to be more than enough; to have more than enough, to have in abundance*

a. Our God is the God of enough and more!

2. **abound-** Gr. **perissueo**

a. The love of God has been shed abroad in our heart but we can have it increase and abound by putting it into use.

3. **love-** Gr. **agape**

B. just as we do to you

1. **do-** *not in Greek- omit*

13. 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.

A. establish- Gr. **sterizo-** *to stablize*

1. We are stabilized by grace through faith.

B. hearts- Gr. **kardia**

C. blameless- Gr. **amemptos-** *faultless*

1. This comes because of the righteousness of Christ that is imputed and imparted to us and not arising from our personal performance or obedience to the Law.

D. holiness- Gr. **hagiotēs**- *sanctification, holification*

1. This holiness comes through the Holy Spirit and not our own effort. It is the holiness of the Lord Jesus given to us as a gift.

E. coming- Gr. **parousia**- *arrival*

F. saints- Gr. **hagios**- *holy ones*

1. This word can mean Christian saints or angels. Both will accompany Jesus back to earth. [1 Thess. 4:14, 17](#) ,[2 Thess. 1:7](#)
However, here I believe it refers to Christian saints.
2. All Christians that have passed away will come back with Jesus and those who are alive when He comes will rise to meet Him in the air.