

I Thessalonians 3: 1-5

This is now the third time we are looking at the book of Thessalonians together.....

--review a little of what we have seen....quick snapshot....

- 1) Acts 17 – three weekends....preaching in the synagogue
- 2) Opposition – forced to leave.....
- 3) A church was formed....(not big – few leaders....)

Paul was writing them for a few reasons.....

- 1) To encourage them....heard about their faith.....(everyone was talking about it)
- 2) To warn them specifically.....
 - a. Those who had come in who were attacking the gospel.....chapter 2
 - b. The character of their ministry....
 - if you remember last time - laid out for them.....
 - the quality and the character of his own ministry...
 - 1) didn't teach out of error 2) weren't deceitful 3) not to please men 4) gentle among them – working day and night
 - c. What they were doing was - laying down a pattern for pastoral integrity....
 - what leadership should look like - for the church of all ages

Now....as we go on in last few verses of chapter 2 and the beginning of 3 Paul changes gears...

--begin to express the connection he has with the church....

--the great love that he has for the Thessalonians....

--this morning I want to walk through these verses with you....

→**THEME – the LOVE of a PASTOR**

1) Paul's love of the Thessalonians—despite separation.

Let's begin in vs 17-20 →READ.....

--remember the short time.....

--yet, although Paul understood that this was from the hand of the Lord....

-- he personally could not wait to see these B & S again.

“in the body but not in Spirit” “with great desire”

What we see here is the genuine nature between a pastor and the church....

--it is one thing to know the role of a pastor.....

--to know his job description.....preach and teach – to proclaim the truth....

-- be a defender of the faith.....

But that isn't enough is it.....?

--part of a pastor's call is to have a love for people.....

-- EG/ Shepherds.....love, care, know the sheep.....

So it is with the Pastor..... in order to lead.....those in the church must be able to FEEL that love-

It is interesting.....vs 18 WE wanted to come – more than once....BUT.....?????????

--what is he referring to?

--Lets go to chapter 17 – read vs 1-9

Satan had a hand in these events....trying to stop the gospel from being preached....

--it seems that Paul is also referring to other events.....

--So did Satan win?

“Even when the devil tries to chop up the road that lies ahead, thus apparently blocking our advance, God’s hidden plan is never wrecked. Satan may cut in on us, preventing us from doing what, for the moment, seems best for us, God’s ways are always better than ours.”

Yet Paul wasn’t discouraged was he----Joyful! Thankful!

--for what God was presently doing in their lives.....

--present and future.....

“YOU are our glory and our joy!”

EG/ Parents.....when you have you first child – something changes in you.....

--look at my kid.....!!!!!!

--true at 2 years old

--so it is in the family of God.....Paul as a spiritual father.....so thankful

So despite their separation – Paul continued to love and encourage these brothers....

--you remember....reputation.....

2) As we turn to chapter three Paul demonstrates his love tangibly to the church by doing something important....Timothy is sent →READ vs 1

I don’t think we fully understand this verse today.....”When we could stand it no longer”
(again in **3:5**)

--news today travels fast.....you can be across the world but you know exactly what is happening.....

--but in the past that wasn’t the case.....

EG/ missionaries were sent.....they didn’t hear news for many- months or years..

-- in NT times even more so....

---they wanted to know what was going on...to show their love for the church..

So what happened? Timothy was sent.....to find out what was happening

--Timothy was a young pastor....inexperienced in many ways...

--Paul also sent him to the Corinthians.....

I Corinthians 4:18 “I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus.....”

What does Paul say about him? “our brother and fellow labourer”

--he had full confidence in him....

EG/ when you study for the ministry....

So Timothy was sent and was sent with a purpose....

--?What was that purpose.....????

--VS 2 - TWO THINGS – to encourage & strengthen.....

--two things that are SO necessary in the life of the believer.....

EG/learning to walk.....

Why was this so necessary especially for THIS church? Verse 3 explains → READ

--living in times of affliction and persection.....

This was something Paul warned the about in advance – VS 4 “KEPT telling you in advance”

--this is something a good pastor does right?

--warns you about the difficulties....trials....struggles.....

---things that are coming in you life that are NOT EASY.....

--if you know that ahead of time → that helps you prepare

EG/ driving – bump ahead – speedbump ahead.....

For pastors who don't do this –they are not doing their jobs.....

--what happens when that first big storm comes up → you will shipwreck right?

For the church here.....this is what Paul had done.....

--again....the church was being challenged.....

--those trying to undermine what they had been taught.....

(typical way)

--ultimately Satan's doing

Verse 5 says that he feared “that the tempter might have tempted you”.

--Satan was working overtime to make these Christians fall (which is always the case)

The thought that immediately jumps into you mind is.....(at least in my mind)

--“could these Christians lose their salvation”?????

→Paul hadn't spent a lot of time with them.....maybe they didn't genuinely.

--parable of the sower....

--Matt 13:20,21

The wonderful news that Timothy brought back was.....not the case.....**READ 6-10**

(slow) --what we see here is a beautiful picture of what the church of JC is to be like...☺

1) The love of a pastor for the church.....

--the concern that he had for them--the strengthening and encouraging

2) For the response of the congregation.....

--striking “always remember us kindly and long to see us”

As we conclude this _____ I want you to pray to that end.....

1) Satan today is busy (like in the NT times)

– by hindering the church....

--by tempting the church

– by dividing the church – ruining relationships....

--# 1 way of discrediting the church.....

2) Particularly for this church.....

hat when people come in here.....

--the relationship between leadership & church

--as we pray for a man to lead this church

(slow)→that God would provide such a pastor ---with a heart of love