

Friday

About In Love

Today's Scripture 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Apparently the Thessalonian church received word that Paul, Silas and Timothy had suffered much trying to preach the gospel. Yet Paul had told them not to “be moved (disturbed) by these afflictions” (v. 3). He says proudly, “we were destined for this!” They even gave the church there an advanced warning that this kind of opposition and persecution was going to happen (v. 4).

Yet these three men were more concerned about the well-being of the church in Thessalonica than for themselves! They knew this was a young church, and were anxious to hear about how they were doing (v. 5). Specifically, Paul was afraid that two events might have taken place. First, he was afraid that “the tempter had tempted you” (v. 5). What does that mean? They feared that Satan had been successful in getting them to doubt the truth of the gospel message and its promises. Second, Paul and his companions feared that “our labor would be in vain” (v. 5). These three preachers had endured much to get the gospel to the Thessalonian brethren. It would be discouraging to hear that it was all a waste of time. Thankfully, Paul’s concerns were unfounded. Timothy brought back word that the church was doing great, and standing firm in the faith (vv. 8-9).

Paul ends this chapter with some stated goals, goals that would be good for us to think about as we go about our day.

First, Paul wanted them to “increase and abound in love for one another” (v. 12). Do our brothers and sisters know how much we care about them? Have we expressed that love? Have we demonstrated it?

Second, Paul wanted them to increase in their love “for all.” We need to develop a worldwide view and think about the lost everywhere.

Third, Paul wanted them to be “blameless in holiness” (v. 13). Jesus is coming. Maybe He will come today! We need to make sure we have our spiritual house in order.

Today, I will... think about how I demonstrate the love of Christ to others.