



# I THESSALONIANS

## “STAND FIRM IN THE LORD”

### LESSON #3 – I THESSALONIANS 3:1-13

#### REVIEW

Recall message of I Thessalonians 2 to evaluate this statement: “Paul did not want to be a burden to these new Christians, but felt a burden to support them in their newfound faith.”

#### INTRODUCTION

Sometimes Christians are accused of saying one thing and doing another. Assess how accurate that sentiment is. Determine when you are most susceptible to acting hypocritically. Determine when you are most likely to overcome this tendency.

#### I THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

Recall the source of troubles in Thessalonica.

Reconstruct Paul’s mental anguish in deciding to send Timothy to Thessalonica. Peer into his concern for the Thessalonians, his ongoing ministry in Athens, and his own personal needs.

Analyze the following passages to come up with a principle that will help us deal with the trials for which we are destined:

- Luke 12:52,53
- John 15:20
- Acts 14:22
- 1 Peter 4:12-14
- Romans 8:37-39

Paul demonstrates an appropriate way to handle spiritual fears. Come up with 2 or 3 do's & 2 or 3 don'ts.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9

Connect 1 Thessalonians 1:3 and 2:13 with 3:6-7 to express the most encouraging parts of this report from Timothy.

Use these verses to discover what it means to really live.

From the tone of these verses assess the seriousness of Satan's attacks and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Propose ways we can use the life and example of the Apostle Paul to make our concern for mission work more than something we simply read and learn about in distant cities and foreign lands.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 3:10-13

How does Paul see his ongoing role with the Thessalonian Christians?

How does he want them to understand God's role?

Summarize the key points of this prayer. Then rephrase and rewrite it for your own congregation.

### CONCLUSION

Consider the ways a healthy prayer life can help take Bible truths and translate them into action in the lives of God's people. God knows everything about us and everything that is going on in our world. Express the benefits of specific, persistent and bold prayers, especially on behalf of fellow Christians.

## I THESSALONIANS 3

So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. **2** We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, **3** so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. **4** In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. **5** For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

**6** But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. **7** Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. **8** For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. **9** How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? **10** Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

**11** Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. **12** May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. **13** May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

