

“1 Thessalonians 3:1–13”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “1 Thessalonians 3:1-13. Before we talk about 1 Thessalonians 3, let’s take a brief glimpse at a few verses in chapter 2.

Suffered like brethren in Judea

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16—“You also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans—who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us.”

Wanted to visit them again

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:17—Paul reminded the brethren that he and others wanted to see them again.

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:18—Paul reminded the brethren that Satan hindered their return to see them.

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:19—Paul reminded the brethren about their hope, joy and desire for the brethren—that they would be “in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:20—This section ended with Paul writing: “You are our glory and joy.”

Paul in Athens, Timothy in Macedonia

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:1—While Paul was in Athens, Timothy was in Macedonia.

■ Acts 17:5—A mob of evil men in Thessalonica attacked the house of Jason, looking for Paul.

■ Acts 17:10—The brethren sent Paul and Silas to Berea.

■ Acts 17:13-15—When the evil men from Thessalonica went to Berea to stir up more trouble, the brethren sent Paul away, and he ended up in Athens.

■ Acts 17:16—Paul was not happy to see the people in Athens given over to idols.

■ Acts 17:23-31—Paul gave a fantastic oral presentation in Athens.

Why was Timothy sent to Thessalonica?

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3—Paul mentioned the reasons to send Timothy to Thessalonica: “To establish you and encourage you concerning the faith.”

Notice Paul’s description of Timothy’s serving in Philippi (a nearby city in Macedonia).

■ Philippians 2:19—Paul mentioned his plan to send Timothy to Philippi “that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.”

■ Philippians 2:20-22—Then Paul made these positive statements about Timothy: “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own (not the things which are of Christ Jesus). But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.”

The rest of 1 Thessalonians 3 confirms Paul’s reason for sending Timothy to places in Macedonia (like Philippi and Thessalonica).

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:2—Paul wanted Timothy to establish them and to encourage them concerning their faith.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:3—Paul wanted Timothy to remind them not to be shaken by their afflictions.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:4—Paul reminded them that believers suffer tribulations.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:5—Paul wanted Timothy to confirm that the tempter did not derail them.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8—Timothy had already given a good report.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10—Paul was praying night and day to see their faces and their faith.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:11—Paul wrote: “Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:12—Paul wrote: “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all—just as we do to you.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:13—Paul wrote to them about focusing upon God (the Father) and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.