

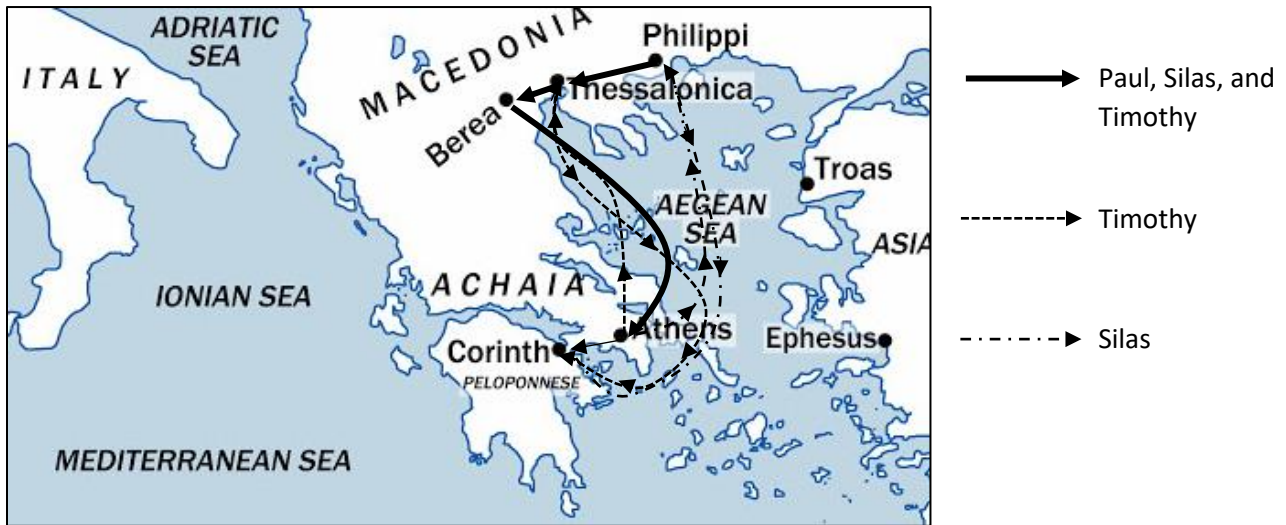
1 Thessalonians

Lesson 4: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

The true love that a spiritual leader has for his people is seen in his concern for his people. Paul had great concern for the churches that he ministered to. In 2 Corinthians 11:28, after speaking of the physical tribulation that he went through, Paul then says, “Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.” Not only did he experience physical pain, but there was also emotional pain in his concern for the churches he planted. One of those churches he was concerned for was the church at Thessalonica. Let’s dive in to 1 Thessalonians 3 and see why Paul was concerned and what he did about it.

➤ Context

Reading Acts 17 and 18 alongside 1 Thessalonians 3 helps to get the context of what happened on Paul’s second missionary journey. The following map helps to illustrate the journey that Paul, Silas, and Timothy took as they ministered in Macedonia and Achaia.



➤ Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1. Read Acts 17:13. In light of what the Jewish Thessalonians did in Berea, why would Paul be concerned about the Thessalonians?
2. How did Paul refer to Timothy in 1 Thessalonians 3:2? Why would he not identify Timothy as “my fellow worker?”

3. Why did Paul send Timothy back to Thessalonica? Why would the Thessalonians need this?

4. In verse 4, what was Paul warning the Thessalonians about? In what ways did it come to pass?

5. In verses 5, what was Paul's fear for the Thessalonians?

Application: What are practical ways we can be strengthening, encouraging, or checking in on each other's faith?

Application: Paul was in agony not knowing the Thessalonian's condition. What are things that you agonize over—things that keep you awake or occupy your mind?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8**

6. In verse 6, what report did Timothy bring back to Paul when they met up in Corinth?

7. Why would this report bring so much joy to Paul? Why does "love" matter for Paul?

8. In verses 7 and 8, what did the Thessalonian's faith do for Paul? How did they do it?

Application: How has the faith of another friend comforted you? Tell of a specific time.

Application: Paul was encouraged by the faith of the Thessalonians. What are ways you can encourage your pastor?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

9. What did the Thessalonians do in Paul's life? Who does Paul give thanks to?

10. In verse 10, what are the two prayer requests Paul has?

11. What does verse 10 tell you about the faith of the Thessalonians?

12. In 2:18, Paul tells them he wanted to see the Thessalonians, but "Satan hindered us." How did this hinderance turn out to be a blessing?

Application: How do you react when things don't go your way? What can you learn from Paul about your perspective on life?

13. Verse 11 continues the first prayer request in verse 10 (see #10 above). Who is Paul praying for in this verse?

14. What is Paul teaching as he prays for guidance from "our God and Father . . . and Jesus our Lord?"

15. Verses 12 and 13 continue the second prayer request in verse 10 (see #10 above). What does Paul desire for God to do in the Thessalonian's lives?

16. In verse 13, what event did Paul use to motivate the believers to live holy lives?

Application: Paul wants the Thessalonians to grow in love for each other and all people. Who are the "all people?" How can you grow in love for them?

Application: What motivates you to live for Christ?

Application: What one verse in chapter 3 impacted you the most? Why?