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| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**  Chapter 3:11-16 |  |

1. Read (see "Short Guide for Bible Study" handout for tips)
2. Recognize and Research
   1. Trace Paul's flow of thought in this prayer. What are the three requests in his prayer?
   2. How are verses 3:11-13 connected with 3:10?
   3. What is Paul's desire behind this prayer? (Hint: the purpose of Paul's ministry in chapter 2)
   4. What is the significance of Paul mentioning both God and Jesus in this prayer? Why does he use titles like Father and Lord?
   5. What does the, "So that", point to in vs. 13?
   6. How is the need for holiness connected to verse 13?
   7. Identify key terms/thoughts for further study. (Suggestions: Love, Heart, Blameless, and Holiness. Study "coming of Lord Jesus.")
3. Relate and Reflect
   1. Why does Paul need God's intervention in providing a way to the Thessalonians? (Hint: read 2:18)
   2. Did the Thessalonians lack love? What does the rest of the letter say about their love?
   3. What does Scripture say about a believer's love for one another and those outside the Church?
   4. Does Christ force you to increase in love against your will, or in other words, make you increase? Why not? Along with that, can a Christian increase in love without Christ?
   5. What do the OT and NT say about God's desire for the holiness of His people?
   6. Paul mentions the Thessalonian's hearts. How does Scripture define the human heart?
   7. What does Scripture say about Christians being before God in end times? Will Christians be judged by God?
   8. How does Paul's prayer inform our theology of sanctification and perseverance of the Saints?
4. Respond
   1. How does Paul's prayer set an example of how we should pray for one another?
   2. What does it look like for us to love one another in the Church?
   3. How can we show love to those outside the Church?
   4. How should the future of Christ's return motivate us to pursue holiness?