

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Thess 3:1-5.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined>. Commands are double-underlined>. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1 Therefore

 when we could endure it no longer,
we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,

2 and we sent Timothy,
 our brother
 and God's fellow worker
 in the gospel of Christ,

to strengthen
and encourage you as to your faith,

3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions;
 for you yourselves know
 that we have been destined for this.

4 For indeed
 when we were with you,
we kept telling you in advance
 that we were going to suffer affliction;
and so it came to pass, as you know.

5 For this reason,
 when I could endure it no longer,
I also sent to find out about your faith,
 for fear that the tempter might have tempted you,
 and our labor would be in vain.

1. What does the word "therefore" refer to?(v1)

2. What could the missionaries no longer endure?

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3. What might be implied by the missionaries staying back in Athens alone? What is the text emphasizing? (v1)

4. Who did they send in their stead? (v2)

5. What language is used to describe Timothy? Why do the authors describe Timothy is this way?(v2)

6. What does the description of Timothy imply about his labors in the gospel?(v2)

7. What is the purpose of Timothy's trip to Thessalonica?(v2)

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Thess 3:1-5 again.

8. What afflictions are the authors referring to in v.3? (also see Acts 17:5)

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9. What possible outcomes were they trying to avoid? (v3)

10. What do Paul and friends believe they are destined for? How would this understanding impact their ministry?(v3)

11. In what ways are the Thessalonians similarly destined?(v3)

12. What does it mean that they “kept telling” the Thessalonians about impending sufferings?(v4)

13. Why might the missionaries have forewarned the Thessalonians about their suffering?(v4)

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Thess 3:1-5 again.

14. Why do the authors mention the Thessalonians faith again in v.5? How is this concern related to their concern in v.2? How is it different?

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15. Who is the tempter? (v5) What temptation might the authors refer to?

16. What would it mean for their labors to be in vain? Does this concern demonstrate a lack of faith on behalf of the missionaries? Why or why not?

17. Summarize the passage in one sentence.

18. What does this passage teach us about the church?

19. How has this passage impacted your understanding of ministry?

20. How might this passage be applicable to your life this week?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would be strengthened and encouraged so we might suffer for the gospel