

**1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5** provides us with some helpful context clues for our passage (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11):

<sup>17</sup> But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, <sup>18</sup> because we wanted to come to you--I, Paul, again and again--but Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

**3:1** Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. <sup>4</sup> For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. (ESV)

Today's Major Claim:

**"The Lord is coming: control yourself & console others!"**

3 Key Aspects of the Day of the Lord:

**Aspect I. Day of the Lord: Darkest Night for Doubters (vv.1-3)**

On the day of the Lord those who do not follow Christ will not escape His judgment.

Application/Implication:

Take comfort in knowing the Lord sees our trials & persecutors.

**Aspect II. Day of the Lord: Sunniest Day for Believers (vv.4-7)**

Paul is spurring the faithful on to godly living in light of the certainty of the Lord's return.

Application/Implication:

Live in self-control to nurture the spiritual sensitivity to be alert.

**Aspect III. Day of the Lord: Encouraging Forecast for 'Election' Day (vv.8-11)**

The Thessalonians are in God's elect so they should keep consoling each other till that day.

Application/Implication:

We should be actively seeking ways to console other believers.