

Sending Timothy

- 1 Thess 3:1-3
- 3 We thought it best to remain in Athens by ourselves. But, because we couldn't wait any longer for news about you, 2 **we sent our brother Timothy to you.** He serves God by spreading the Good News about Christ. His mission was to **strengthen and encourage** you in your faith.

A Sure Destiny

- 1 Thess 3:3
- 3 so that these troubles don't disturb any of you. You know that we're destined to suffer persecution.

Preparing the Flock

- 1 Thess 3:4-5

- 4 In fact, when we were with you, we told you ahead of time that we were going to suffer persecution. And as you know, that's what happened. 5 But when I couldn't wait any longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I wanted to see whether the tempter had in some way tempted you, making our work meaningless.

Evaluating the Flock

- 1 Thess 3:6
- 6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your **faith and charity (love)**, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:
- Timothy brought a positive message back to Paul, that the churches **faith and love was still strong in spite of persecution**. That the relationship between them and Paul was very much in tact.

A Cause for Comfort

- 1 Thess 3:7
- 7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by **your faith**:
- What was their faith? (1 Thess. 5-6; (Rom. 1:16) (1 Cor. 15:1-4) What is the Gospel?
- 1 Thess 3:7
- 7 Brethren, for this reason, in [spite of all] our stress and crushing difficulties we have been filled with comfort and cheer about you [**because of**] **your faith** (the leaning of your whole personality on God in complete trust and confidence).
- AMP

A Cause of Rejoicing

- 1 Thess 3:8-9
- 8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.
- 9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;
- Stand Fast – The idea here is like a army that refuses to retreat, even though being attacked by an enemy.
- Paul states here that the highest joy of ministry is to see people hold to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which the essence of our faith.

A Cause of Rejoicing

- The quality of the churches faith caused the great Apostle to erupt in praise unto God. Because our Father is the author of our faith.
- 1 Thess 3:10
- 10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Praying for the Flock

- 1 Thess 3:11
- 11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.
- 12 And the Lord make you to **increase and abound in love one toward another**, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

Praying for the Flock

- 1 Thess 3:13
- 13 To the end he may **stablish** your hearts **unblameable** in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.
- **Stablish** – Sterizo- To turn with complete resolve in another direction.