



November 16, 2025
Worship Service
Pastor Chris Regas
WeAreLifeBridge.com

1 Thessalonians: Holiness & Hope in a Hostile World

Lesson Nine • 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10 Maintaining a Ministry Not in Vain

The Meaning of a Ministry Not in Vain

Investing the gospel in the lives of people who **REMAIN** fully devoted Christ followers until Christ comes again.

The Marks of a Ministry Not in Vain

- People **GROW UP** to maturity. (1:3)
- People **FINISH WELL** in the end. (2:19-20)
- People **STAND FIRM** in the storms of this life. (3:8)

The Maintenance of a Ministry Not in Vain

- **The Perfect Storm:** Paul's *sudden separation*, Thessalonians' *severe tribulation*, and Satan's *scheming temptations*.
- **Our Sovereign God:** Uses *ministry hindrances* and *spiritual hostility* to mature us so we finish well for His glory, our good, and the joy of others.

Essentials for Maintaining a Ministry Not in Vain

1. Prioritize **IN-PERSON** Ministry. (3:1-2)

- In-person ministry is a biblical **PRIORITY**.

The heart of discipleship and worship happens face-to-face under God's Word by God's Spirit with God's people!

- In-person ministry achieves things **NOTHING** else can.

ESTABLISH and **ENCOURAGE** the faith of others.

Colossians 2:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

- In-person ministry **REPRODUCES** fully devoted disciples.

2. Process **SUFFERING** from God's Perspective! (3:3-4)

Don't be **SHAKEN** by severe tribulation.

- Suffering is **NORMAL** in Christ. (v. 3a; 1 Peter 4:12-16)
- Suffering is our **DESTINY** in this life. (v. 3b; Acts 14:22)

- Suffering **EXPECTED** helps to endure it. (v. 4).

*"Persecution, hardship, and difficulty are **expectations** for the Christian; they were never meant to be **exceptions** for the Christian. So the real question is not, **Will I face trouble?** But, **How will I respond when I face trouble?**" – Mark Howell*

3. Practice **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** by Ordinary Means of Grace! (3:5)

- **APPLY** what you know even when it's hard. (Hebrews 10:19-25)
- **RESIST** the temptation to take the easy way out.

4. Persevere by **STANDING FIRM** in the Lord No Matter What! (3:6-10)

Standing Firm in the Lord...

- Brings **COMFORT** to others – *especially those who have invested the Word and their lives in you!* (v.7)
- Brings **LIFE** to others. (v. 8)
- Brings **JOY** to others. (v. 9)
- **DEPENDS** on the Lord: *Praise Him for it and pray to Him about it!* (vv. 9-10)

Maintain a ministry not in vain according to these four essentials, so by God's grace you and others will stand firm in the Lord in a hostile world!