

Thessalonians
Chapter Three

Two points for today:

- 1.) We can suffer well for the glory of God & by faith root our identities in Christ even in our pain.
- 2.) We can live holy lives for the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (ESV)

“1 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 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. 5 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.”

Paul was worried that these new believers would go through pain & suffering that ultimately would lead to them walking away from their faith in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)

*“5 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.”*

1 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV)

*“3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are **destined** for this...”*

Destined means God has allowed it to happen for some of these reasons:

- 1.) That you could grow & mature in your faith.
- 2.) That you could have a deeper love & appreciation for Jesus’ affliction & suffering.
- 3.) That your character would become more like Christ.
- 4.) That you'd have compassion & empathy & wisdom to help others that may be in a similar place.

Satan preys on those who are suffering & hurting by whispering into the wounds.

ACTION STEP:

- 1.) Write down every lie you believe about who you are & write next to it the truth of what God says.
- 2.) Write down every lie you have heard in your seasons of struggle & write next to it what God says in His word.

We can suffer well for the glory of God & by faith root our identities in Christ even in our pain.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (ESV)

“11 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, 12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

We can live holy lives for the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (ESV)

“1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (ESV)

*“3 For this is the **will of God, your sanctification...**”*

Sanctification means “a growing love for God & growing rejection of sin & all that He despises.”

Everybody wants Jesus to save them but few want to actually live their lives the way Jesus calls us to. Everyone wants the call of salvation from Jesus but not the call to holiness from Jesus. Everyone wants Jesus to die for them but few want to die to themselves for Jesus.