

SERIES TITLE: ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN

PART THREE: HELPS US ENDURE

TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13

INTRODUCTION.

The church in Thessalonica was started by the Apostle Paul. Although many believed (Acts 17) Paul had to run for his life from an angry mob. Concerned about the young church, Paul sent Timothy to find out. Timothy reported that the church was doing well, but was under a lot of pressure. There were some moral problems, and confusion about the return of Christ. So Paul wrote this first letter of encouragement and instruction. Repeatedly he tells them how to live in light of the coming Christ.

DISCUSSION.

If you had to choose between a relationship that expressed love or a relationship that helped you grow, which would you choose and why?

EXAMINATION.

- Identify the different ways Paul expresses his love for the Thessalonians in chapters 2-3.
- Identify the different ways Paul expresses concern for their spiritual wellbeing.
- In 3:10 Paul says he can't wait to help them with their shortcomings. What gives him the right to speak into their lives that way?
- What is Paul's ultimate goal for the Thessalonians expressed in 3:12-13?

APPLICATION.

- What happens in relationships where there is love but no truth?
- What happens in relationships where there is truth, but love isn't clearly expressed?
- In what way can love AND truth together produce enduring relationships?
- Which relationships in your life could benefit most from setting a goal of preparing them for Christ's return?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?

- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?