

FIRST THESSALONIANS

God's Message to a Church and culture like Ours Today

CHAPTER THREE NOTES:

From Verses 1 – 5:

- 1) We need partners to help us carry out effective ministry (e.g. Paul needed Timothy's help)
- 2) We have the privilege to be God's fellow workers! (I Cor 3:9; II Cor 6:1)
- 3) Christians should expect trials. We should persevere and know that trials advance God's purposes in our lives and the lives of others (Acts 8:1,4; 11:19-21; Rom 5:3-5; II Cor 1:3-4, 4:16-18; James 1:2-4).
- 4) Satan is the great tempter. He tempted Jesus (Matt 4:1-11) and tempts Jesus' servants (I Cor 7:5). But Satan has been defeated, his final fate is sealed, and we can overcome him! (Col 2:15; Eph 6:16; I John 4:4; James 4:7; Rev 20:10).

From Verses 6 – 10:

- 5) God and His human co-workers are encouraged as people exhibit:
 - a) Faith (right attitude towards God)
 - b) Love (right attitude towards people)
 - c) Closeness with a leader (e.g. Paul and the Thessalonians)
 - d) Walking with the Lord (standing firm in Him)
- 6) People that we have ministered to can bring us joy
- 7) We should pray for others earnestly and consistently
- 8) We should seek to help edify and teach people (help fill in the gaps in faith and knowledge)

From Verses 11 – 13:

- 9) We need to ask God for help
- 10) We should have overflowing love for other Christians AND all people
- 11) Christian shepherds should love their flock (i.e. leaders should love the people that God has placed in our care)
- 12) We need our hearts strengthened; right hearts lead to right standing before God
- 13) Jesus will come back some day