

“Established In THE Faith”
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
7/13/25
Message 5

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Established In THE Faith”

- **Running Start – Review**

- **1st Beginning**

- **Church Started on Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 16-17)**
 - Paul was only there for 3 weeks – (Some say a few more)
- **Paul Left in Hurry = Persecution**
- **Paul Wrote from Corinth - Around the year 50-52 AD (48AD)**

- **2nd Reason For Writing Them**

- **1st To ASSURE this young church of his Love & Concern**
 - Left in hurry – Make sure they know how much he care
 - Paul was being slandered – Set the record straight
- **2nd ENCOURAGE them to Live Holy Lives / Plus Correction**
 - We will see as we move through
- **3rd GROUNDED In Doctrine – Christ’s Return**
 - We talk about the confusion today

- Gave a list of what the world would look like
- **Chapter 1 - The Joy They Brought to Paul Heart**
 - Their Work of Faith
 - Their Labor of Love
 - Their Patience of Hope
 - Their Example of Enduring under Affliction with JOY
 - HOW They turned to GOD from idols - They serve the Living God –
 - They are waiting for Jesus' return
- **Chapter 2a – Paul Defends his Ministry – Plus gives a model for ministers**
 - A Minister Is Confident That God Will Do The Work vv. 1-2
 - A Minister Is Committed To Integrity vv. 3-6
 - A Minister Will Be Concerned With Growth & Wellbeing vv. 7-9
 - A Minister Will Challenge You, In Your Walk With The Lord vv. 10-12
- **Chapter 2b - Received the Word Of God**
 - Their Reception Of God's Word v. 13
 - Their Resistance Towards Persecution vv. 14-16
 - Paul's Reaction to Them vv. 17-20

• **Now This Morning - Established In The FAITH**

- Paul Reveals His DEEP Concern For Them vv. 1-5

- Paul Rejoices In The Good Report vv. 6-10
- Paul Responses In Continual Prayer vv. 10-13

• **Now Before we dig into the text - Let me point out 2 things**

- **The Phrase – Your Faith**

- Appears 5 times

- (1 Thessalonians 3:2; 3:5; 3:6; 3:7; 3:10)
 - Paul wants them to be established in THEIR FAITH –
 - They have to do it!

- **The Word – ESTABLISHED**

- **Greek: Sterizo (“steroids”)**

- Means: To make stable, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant

- Quick Point On Steroids

- Make no mistake about Steroids work – NOT good for you BUT they work

- **Sterizo and is found 14 times in NT.**

- Twice in our text this morning vv. 2 & 13
 - The **Related forms** of this word, appear about 143 times in the Bible

- **Some of the Usages in the NT**

- 1st Luke 16:26
 - Used of the **“Great Gulf Fixed”** between the righteous and the wicked

- 2nd Luke 22:32
 - It is used of our Lord's admonition to Peter when he said, "and when you have returned to Me, **Strengthen** your brethren."
- 3rd Romans 1:11
 - It is used by Paul in referring to his spiritual gift –
 - To the end you may be **Established**
- 4th Romans 16:25

Romans 16:25 (NKJV)

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

- 5th 2 Thessalonians 2:17
 - Paul who prays that our Lord Jesus Christ would
 - Comfort your hearts and **Establish** you in every good word and work"
- 6th 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - Who shall **Establish** you, and keep you from evil (evil one)
- 7th James 5:8
 - You also be patient; **Establish** your hearts; for the coming of the Lord is at hand
- 8th 1 Peter 5:10

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV)

*10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, **Establish, strengthen**, and settle you.*

▪ **Please NOTE**

- In some cases
 - It is the **Lord** who establishes the believer
- In other cases
 - It is the **Believer** who is responsible to establish his own heart or the lives of other believers
- What we want to walk away with today –
 - God wants us to be Establish in Our Faith – In The FAITH

Paul Reveals His DEEP Concern For Them vv. 1-5

• **First: The Insight We Gain Into Paul's Heart v. 1**

- **1st Therefore v. 1a**

1 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone,

▪ **This passage opens with - Therefore**

- And we all know what to do with that...
- We know it Links it to the closing section of the previous chapter
- Where Paul Expressed his HEART & DESIRE to get back to them to encourage them

- **2nd When we could no longer endure it v. 1b**

1 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, **when we could no longer endure it**, we thought it good to be left
in Athens alone,

- **Endure –**

- Greek: Stego –
- Means: Websters
 - To continue in the same state
 - Remain in existence; last.

- **Paul had been greatly concerned about the Thessalonians.**

- Paul could no longer hold his peace on his feelings for the Thessalonians
- And did something about it.

- **What did Paul do?**

- I can't go because Satan is hindering BUT (1 Thess. 2:18)
 - I can go it alone in Athens and send Timothy back to Thessalonica.

- **Paul's Heart**

- Regardless of the Battle - Paul wanted to be with them
 - Paul's strong love for them
 - Resulted in intense emotional pain during this separation.

- He couldn't endure it!!!!
 - He had to get back to them!!!
 - **No Matter the trial in Paul's Life he wanted them to be okay**
 - He was more concerned about their spiritual well-being and the trials they were facing!!!
-
- **A Mark of a true Minister / Pastor**
 - 1st is NOT PREOCCUPIED with his OWN TRAILS
 - Rather, he is deeply concerned with the spiritual condition of the people God has placed under his care!!!
 - Any time a pastor gets preoccupied with himself & his problems – it's a good sign he is getting off tract!
 - A true Pastor will look out for others before himself
 - Illustration
 - Like with our kids... We not put their NEEDS above ours
 - 2nd Wants to be with the sheep
 - A true PASTOR is going to have a Heart that wants to be with the Sheep!!!
 - They like to be around the sheep – they want to be with God's people
 - 3rd - A Pastor's Heart
 - A pastor's heart is Protective

- He guards the flock from Satan's snares
- A pastor's heart is Attentive
 - He seeks to know the people in his cares.
- A pastor's heart is Sacrificial
 - For his sheep he will give all
- A pastor's heart is Tender
 - He listens to the Spirit's call
- A pastor's heart is Obedient
 - He heeds the Lord's commands
- A pastor's heart is Reflective
 - He considers he is but a man.
- **3rd Left Alone in Athens v. 1c**

1 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone,

▪ **1st LEFT in Athens alone**

- Left
 - Greek: kataleípō
 - Means: To leave behind at death
- Paul HAD to get to them / even if he himself could not he would send Timothy NO MATTER what it may have cost him

• **Second: His Intentions For Sending Timothy To Them v. 2**

- 1st Sent Timothy v. 2a

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

- **1st A BROTHER**

- Meaning - Like Minded

Philippians 2:19–20 (NKJV)

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

- Application
 - Doing ministry together with someone
 - Should be like minded
 - Same goals, values, vision
 - There is room for different opinions
 - But the essentials must be agreed upon
 - Illustration – If we ever hired an Assistant
 - The Philosophy Acts 2
 - But if someone wants all the bells and whistles it might be best if they went to that type of church and served

- **2nd A MINISTER of God**

- Greek: Diákonos

- Means: Servant, Deacon
 - This is simply the Greek word for a SERVANT!!!
- A Minister is a SERVANT
 - A TRUE Minister / Pastor must be a servant
 - 1st Timothy was not afraid to work.
 - He had faithfully served with Paul in other settings.
 - 2nd Timothy understand his life was not his own
 - They belong to Jesus and Jesus came to serve!!!
 - 3rd They were serving Jesus First – NOT man
 - Timothy knew who he was serving!
 - Serving the Lord first – then men
 - “Pastors” who ONLY want to be served are NOT true Pastors!!!
- **3rd FELLOW LABORER**
 - Team Player –
 - Paul knew that He could be trusted
 - Timothy didn’t have his own agenda – wasn’t out to promote himself
 - Timothy will take care you - like I would
- **2nd To Establish You v. 2b**

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

*2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, **to establish you** and encourage you concerning your faith,*

▪ **To Establish –**

- Greek: Sterizo (“steroids”)
- Means: to make stable, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant

▪ **Application – Be ESTABLISH in the FAITH**

• **1st STRONG in Doctrine**

○ **Know WHAT you believe and WHY**

▪ **Not just repeating**

▪ If You’re Not strong in Doctrine –

- Then you be tossed to and fro by the enemy

○

○ The only way this happens –

▪ **BE IN THE WORD**

- **STUDY** it

▪ Please study Methodes (See Sheet in The back)

- More on this in a few minutes

• **2nd Exercise Your Faith**

- If we don’t exercise physically, we lose the muscles
- Want to be Established in the Faith Exercise it

- Meaning
 - LIVE IT OUT
 - Be ENGAGED
 - Praying
 - Witnessing
 - Serving
- **3rd Be a BODY Builder**
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - Each Part has been gifted by God and placed into them body to BUILD that Body
 - We have a role in strengthening each other.
- **3rd Encourage you concerning your faith v. 2c**

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

*2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you **and encourage you concerning your faith,***

- **1st Encourage –**
 - Greek: Parakaleo –
 - Means: To call to one's side; exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, admonish, exhort
- **2nd Application**
 - Encouragement – LOVE with the Word
 - 1st Pray

- The Most Important thing we can do for Others
- 2nd To Comfort Others in times of trials

Romans 12:15 (NKJV)

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

- 3rd Exhort
 - Push along
 - We need people in our lives who can nudge us in the right direction, like Paul did in his letters and Timothy did with his visit.
- 4th WARN
 - Yes when necessary we warn

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV)

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

Third: The Importance Of Understanding Afflictions & Suffering vv. 3-5

- **1st That no one should be Shaken by these Afflictions v. 3-4**

1 Thessalonians 3:3–4 (NKJV)

3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

▪ **1st It's A Promise**

- The apostle is reminding them that all believers should expect tribulations and persecutions because it's a promise

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

○ (John 16:33)

▪ **2nd There's A Purpose**

James 1:2–4 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

1 Peter 4:12 (NKJV)

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

▪ **3rd A Promise to Those Suffering**

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- **2nd Paul's urgency in sending Timothy to the Thessalonians v. 5**

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (NKJV)

5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

▪ **1st When I could no longer endure it**

- Paul could NO LONGER Endure

- The thought that their faith might crumble under this season of affliction

- So he sent Timothy to both check on them and to help them.

- **2nd Lest by some means the tempter had tempted you**

- Paul recognized that the tempter – that is, Satan –
- Wanted to exploit this season of suffering.
- As in the case of Job, Satan wanted to tempt the Thessalonians to give up on God.

- **3rd And our labor might be in vain**

- If the Thessalonians did waver in their faith,
 - Paul would consider his work among them to have been in vain.
 - Vain
 - In the sense that THEY failed
 - Paul knew everything he did for Jesus was not in vain
- In the parable of the soils (Matthew 13:1-23)
 - Jesus described the seed that withered under the heat of trials.
- We can ONLY do what we can do
 - The result really are between individuals and God

Paul Rejoices In The Good Report vv. 6-10

- **First: Paul's Delight In Their Progress v. 6**

- **1st Brought us good news of your faith and love:**
 - **1st Paul's Delight In Their Progress v. 6a**

1 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)

6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you—

- Their faith & love
- Paul had a lot of enemies who tried to undermine his ministry not to mention the attack of the devil
- And he was thrilled to see that they had stayed strong

▪ **2nd Their Desire To See Paul v. 6b**

1 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)

6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you—

- They thought very highly of Paul and the guys and really wanted to see them again
- Isn't it great when someone misses you and really wants to see you

• **Second: Paul's Display Of Gratitude & Thanksgiving vv. 7-10**

○ **1st In all our affliction and distress we were comforted vv. 7-8**

1 Thessalonians 3:7–8 (NKJV)

7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.

8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

▪ **Paul had a Renewed Strength and Freshness**

- Knowing that they are still following Jesus

○ **3rd Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians vv. 9-10**

1 Thessalonians 3:9–10 (NKJV)

*9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,
10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?*

▪ **1st Night and day Praying exceedingly**

- Paul heard good news from Timothy, but it wasn't enough.
- He wanted to see the face of the church family in Thessalonica.
- Paul wanted it enough to pray night and day... exceedingly that God would make a way for him to see them.

▪ **2nd And perfect what is lacking in your faith:**

- In the midst of all this joy,
- Paul called attention to the fact that they were still lacking.
- Though the apostle repeatedly complimented them (1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1:7, 2:13, 2:19-20, and 3:6)
- He was also concerned to perfect (complete) what is lacking in their faith

▪ **Application**

- As a parent what your greatest HOPE for your kids
- That they follow Jesus

3 John 4 (NKJV)

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- Share my heart

Paul Responses In Continual Prayer vv. 11-13

• First: A Perfecting Faith v. 11

- 1st Now may our God and Father Himself v. 11

1 Thessalonians 3:11 (NKJV)

11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.

▪ 1st Prayer –

- Paul was Praying for them
- We MUST Be Praying for Each other

▪ 2nd Direct Our Way to You

- We want to see you be with you

• Second: A Prospering Love v. 12

- 1st And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love v. 12

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,

▪ 1st LOVE

- Times of suffering can be times of selfishness.
 - Persecuted people can often become very self-centered and demanding.
 - REMEMBER THIS!!!

- *What life does to us depends on what life finds in us, nothing reveals the true inner man like the furnace of affliction.*

- When afflictions happens there 2 ways to go
 - Shut themselves off.
 - “Poor me”
 - Draw closer to the Lord and His people.
 - Paul’s Prayer they would draw closer to Jesus and each other!!!
- This was Paul’s prayer for these believers, and God answered it:

2 Thessalonians 1:3–4 (NKJV)

3 *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,*

4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

• Third: A Purifying Hope v. 13

- **1st So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness v. 13**

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 *so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.*

▪ Your hearts blameless in holiness:

- The heart must be made holy first.
- The devil wants us to develop a holy exterior while neglecting the interior, like whitewashed tombs, full of death (Matthew 23:27).

- **Please Note - HOW Ever Chapter Ends – With the coming of Christ**

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NKJV)

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

Closing

- Let make sure were ESTABLISHED in THE FAITH

Bible Study Method

We will look at five points during our training session

1. Think Myself Empty. (Meditating on the Word)
2. Read Myself Full. (Compile mega info)
3. Write Myself Straight. (Begin to organize)
4. Pray Myself Keen. (Allow His Word to work on me)
5. Rely on the Holy Spirit
 - At the moment of truth; as I begin to teach, I must let myself go. (the Holy Spirit does the work)

1. Think Myself Empty (meditating on the Word)

- This means no **preconceived** ideas!
- Meditate on the text - mentally chew the text.
- LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BECOME ACTIVE IN YOUR STUDY.
- Ask yourself:
 - Who....
 - How....

- What...
- Where...
- When...
- Why...
- Break it all down - Where is Jesus?
- Jot down notes and ideas:
 - Text illustration and cross references will come to you as you meditate on and read the text.
 - The text must impact you!
 - The text must move you!
 - The Holy Spirit will reveal all things to you!
 - Know your text! Your notes should only guide you!
 - Talk to and read your text!
 - Read your text 10 to 50 times! The more the better!

2. Read yourself full. (work on clarity)

- Go to good commentaries - recognizing the spiritual gifts God has given to others.
 - Only use commentaries after you have meditated on the text!!
- Word Studies
 - Strong's – Vines – Halley's Bible Handbook
- Systematically study doctrine.
 - Don't focus on nonessential matters, but do focus on the basics of the faith.
- Use Audio Messages and books
- Stay current on events and commentaries.
 - Bible Knowledge Commentary
 - Believers Bible Commentary William MacDonald

- Warren Wiersbe
- J. Vernon McGee
- Logos Bible Software
- Use these to gain insight and stimulate thought.

3. **Write yourself straight.**

- Seeing a direction, begin to organize and formulate your subject matter using notes and points that you have already written.
- Begin to write your outline.
- Write out what has touched your heart.
- Focus = Write to the point of understanding.
- Strive to accomplish the following;
 - Clarity and content - is it clear?
 - A key to being clear is knowing your subject matter.
 - Because of this clarity, you gain liberty and flexibility while you are teaching.
 - Remember, the wordy approach is not the best approach, just the longest.
 - Reliability - does it communicate to the age group you are speaking to?
 - Relevance to them (your audience).
 - It must be something that they can hold onto!
 - Measure the message by the relevance - not length
 - Point to Jesus. He makes it relevant.

- Hand pick historical info. – don't shovel it.
- Use illustration - personal or others.

4. Pray yourself keen!

- Prayer is essential!
- Your ministry will be an overflow of your personal life.
- The greatest preparation is yourself - not your text.
- Cry out to the Lord. He will lift you up!
- *Charles Haddon Spurgeon; "If you can dip your pens into your hearts, appealing in earnestness to the Lord, you will write well; and if you can gather your matter on your knees at the gate of heaven, you will not fail to speak well. Texts will often refuse to reveal their treasures till you open them with the key of prayer."*
- *Charles Haddon Spurgeon; "The minister who does not earnestly pray over his work must surely be a vain and conceited man. He acts as if he thought himself sufficient of himself, and therefore needed not appeal to God!"*
- *Charles Haddon Spurgeon; "Your closet is your best study."*

5. Rely On the Holy Spirit

- Let go!!
- The Holy Spirit does the work anyways... 😊
- Don't think your that IMPORTANT