

Chapter 3 of Thessalonians begins with Paul's lament considering his absence from deeply loved friends in Thessalonica. He shares the purpose of sending Timothy to visit them and his desire for a status update. Throughout the chapter we gain a strong sense of Paul's love for the believers residing in Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians

3:1-13

Timothy's

Report

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Follow up is a critical step when we tackle a new assignment of any kind. Whether a new job, traveling an unfamiliar route, or leading a small group for the first time, having oversight and feedback can give lift to an endeavor. Important components to the delegation of anything: receiving constructive feedback, encouragement, and suggestions, are all crucial in order to see solid success.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

DESCRIBE a time when you were given instructions to perform a task, but never received any follow up or oversight for your efforts.

COMPARE an experience of receiving no feedback to a time when you did. **WHAT** were the notable differences between the two?

WHAT affect does sharing in the same faith have on your friendships?

HOW does physical separation affect your relationships?

1 Thessalonians

3:1-13

Timothy's Report

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

OBSERVATION

How does Paul begin his message in vs. 1?

Who does Paul send to Thessalonica and for what reason (vs. 2-3)?

In vs. 4, what did Paul continually tell those in Thessalonica when he was first there?

What was Paul's fear on behalf of the believers at Thessalonica (vs. 5)?

What kind of report did Timothy bring to Paul in vs. 6?

According to vs. 7-8, what affect did the news about their faith have on Paul and the other believers?

What are you able to observe regarding Paul's prayer for the believers in Thessalonica at the end of this chapter in vs. 10-13?

INTERPRETATION

What was Paul no longer able to bear in vs. 1? See 2:17-18.

From the text, what was the purpose of Timothy's visit to the church in Thessalonica?

Why might Paul have been so worried about those to whom he was writing? Remember Acts 17:2, 13.

Who is Paul speaking of in vs. 5 when he references "the tempter", and why is it that their faith is the thing at stake? Consider Matthew 4:1-4 and Colossians 2:8.

Why does Timothy's report in vs. 6 bring the result it does in vs. 7? Read 3 John 4. Does this same kind of response occur for you?

In vs. 10, what do you think Paul is hoping to supply to the brothers in Thessalonica?

As you consider Paul's prayer in vs. 11-12, what verbs does he use in his requests to God? What is the desired outcome of his prayer (vs. 13), and how do these things look, practically?

APPLICATION

Are you in a discipleship relationship characterized by the same things illustrated in this passage? What are they? What might be lacking that you wish was there? What would it take to achieve these things?