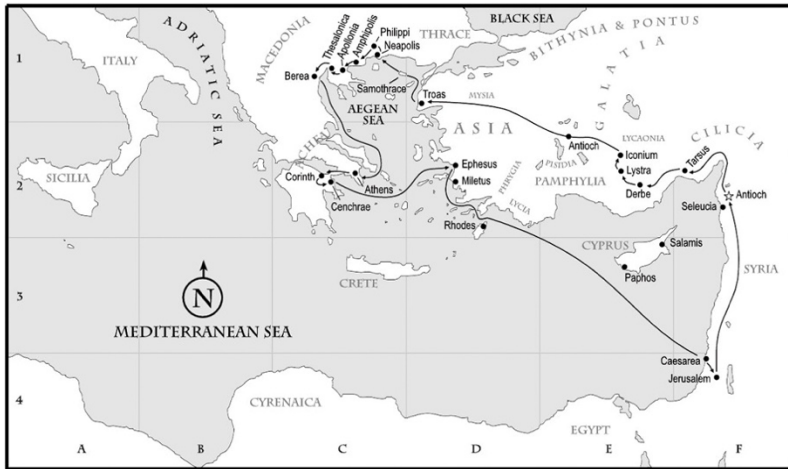


FAITH IN AFFLICTION

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5 - NOVEMBER 12, 2023



1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

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

1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 *“But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.”*

Paul’s Purposes for sending Timothy

To _____ about their faith

To _____ them in their faith

What afflictions?

Affliction after their conversion (1 Thess. 1:6)

Affliction of their _____ (1 Thess. 3:4)

Affliction of their persecution (2 Thess. 1:4)

1. We are _____ for affliction

Acts 4:24–28 *“And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “ ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.”*

Matthew 10:25 *“...If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.”*

John 15:19–20 *“...the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...”*

John 16:33 *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.””*

2. Our faith is under attack by Satan

3. Our heart for others must compel us to _____

4. Our message is Christ’s death and resurrection

Romans 8:32–39 *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ... Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

5. We are God’s _____ on mission