

STANDING FIRM

Part Three: *in the Lord*

September 17, 2023

This fall, we're studying the Apostle Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. Last Sunday, we looked at 1 Thessalonians chapter two, where Paul defends his ministry against false teachers trying to defraud his character. This morning, we are going to cover 1 Thessalonians Chapter Three, where Paul rejoices that the Thessalonians are standing firm in the Lord.

Paul's Great Concern 3:1-5

Paul sent Timothy to encourage the Thessalonians because he thought troubles had shaken them. The Greek word translated shaken in verse 3 was used of a dog wagging its tail. Paul was concerned that persecution and Satan's temptations had caused the Thessalonians' faith to waver. His great concern was the tempter had defeated the Thessalonians and the work he did in Thessalonica was in vain.

Paul's Great Joy 3:6-9

Paul was filled with great joy when Timothy came back from Thessalonica with good news about the young Church. The Thessalonians' faith was strong; they were standing firm in the Lord!

What does it mean to stand firm in the Lord?

- Stand firm is a Greek military term that means not to retreat when the enemy attacks.

Satan was using false teachers and persecution to get the young Christians in Thessalonica to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. But the Thessalonians were enduring persecution and not allowing Satan to trick them.

How did the Thessalonians stand firm in the Lord?

1st – They believed Jesus loved them and was with them during trials and temptations.

2nd - They depended on Jesus for wisdom, strength, and provisions.

Paul's Great Prayer 3:10-13

1st – Paul asked God to allow him, Silas, and Timothy to return to Thessalonica so they could continue discipling the new believers. Vs. 10-11

2nd - Paul asked the Lord to grow the Thessalonians' love for all people. Vs. 12

3rd - Paul asked the Lord to purify the Thessalonians' hearts. Vs. 13

Takeaways...

1. Satan wants to stop us from following Jesus (Ephesians 6:10-18).
2. The only way to overcome trials and temptations is to remain in the Lord (Phil. 4:12-13).
3. We need to inspect our heart every day to see if it is pure (Psalm 51:10; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3).