

*“Joy in the Work of God, Pray in the Way of God”*

*1 Thess. 3:6-13*

*The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People*

Paul is writing to a people who are suffering. He feared lest they lose heart and turn away from Christ. Paul sends Timothy and desires for him to strengthen and encourage them (3:2) reminding them that their path is a divinely chosen path (3:3-5). When Timothy returns to the apostle, Paul tells them of his response to the report.

- I. Their endurance in suffering brought comfort to the apostle (3:6-10).
  - A. A description of their endurance (v.6)
  - B. A description of his comfort (vv.7, 9)

Despite the burden of ministry and its depleting crush, consuming activity, and intruding pervasiveness, Paul said he was comforted and rejoicing.

- C. A description of his desire (v.10)
  - 1. He desired to fellowship with them
  - 2. He desired to instruct them.

What was lacking in their faith? I believe it was instruction. I say this is because of what is about to happen in chapters four and five.

- II. Paul’s prayer (3:11-13)
  - A. Paul prays **for God** to direct him to them (v.11).
  - B. Paul prays **for God** to increase their love for one another (v.12).
  - C. Paul prays **for God** to establish their hearts as blameless in holiness (v.13).

An abounding love reflects a blameless and holy heart before God.

Today, be joyful in God. Plan your life, pray without ceasing; love large; and live a blameless life, but . . . rest in Him for He who has called you will also do it (1 Thess. 5:24).