

First Thessalonians

VERSE-BY-VERSE



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Letter	Date of Writing	Place of Writing
1st Thessalonians	54 A.D.	Corinth

The apostle Paul sent Timotheous back to Thessalonica to check on the state of the church there. They were suffering tribulation as Paul had warned them. He was concerned that those wanting to stop the spread of Christianity had won the believers over. But Timothy returned to Paul (who was by that time in Corinth) with a positive message the church had remembered what Paul taught them and they were excelling in faith and (charity) love, even in the midst of their afflictions.

Verse 7–

We were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith. When we suffer affliction or persecution, it is comforting to know there are others who are standing strong in their faith. This is why we must stay connected to a local body of believers in Jesus Christ. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 27:17,

- 17** Iron sharpeneth iron;
So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

When we are strong in the Lord, we can lift the spirits of a brother or sister in Christ who may be defeated or has lost hope, or is going through some kind of affliction or tribulation. Our Christian testimony effects more than just our own life. In Paul's case the faith of the Thessalonians gave him great comfort.

What are some of the degrees (the progression) of persecution?

1. Warning.
2. Shame.
3. Cut off from normal activities.
4. Take away tax exempt status.
5. Levy fines.
6. Threaten family members.
7. Separate families.
8. Jail or prison time.
9. Physical punishment.
10. Death.

Verse 8–

We live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. It is as if Paul can breathe again by the good report brought back by Timotheous.

Verse 9–

For what thanks can we render to God again for you. This is a rhetorical question. We've thanked God so much already for your faith, how much more can we thank Him? All we can do is continue to be joyful before the Lord. Then Paul says, there is one more thing we can do.

Verse 10–

Paul begins to describe his great prayer for the Thessalonians. **Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face.** We can always pray. One of the shortest verses in the Bible is found in chapter 5:17. Paul says, *Pray without ceasing.* One of the shortest verses, yet perhaps one of the most difficult things for us to do. Paul prayed night and day **exceedingly** or, beyond measure! His prayer was that he would be able to **see your face** once again. He didn't want to see them to have a party or reminisce about old times, he wanted to **perfect that which is lacking in your faith.** In other words, he wanted to have Bible study with them so they would grow in their faith.

This could be a serious lesson for us in that, when we gather together we should help **perfect** each other in our faith—through Bible study. The days are short and there is no time to waste.

Verse 11–

Paul is praying that he might see their face again, and that he might perfect what is lacking in their faith, and that **God himself and** (who is also) **our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.** The word **direct** is what is called an optative, and it is a word that expresses a wish: "If only."

Verse 12–

His prayer continues, **And the Lord make you increase and abound in love:**
-toward one another.
-toward all men.
-even as we do toward you.

Verse 13–

Paul closes his prayer that **the end** of everything in his prayer **he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness.**

At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. The second coming of Jesus Christ