

REPORT FROM MISSION FIELD

We are currently studying lessons from the Book of Thessalonians related to missionary evangelism.

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following two point homiletic outline.

- **Timothy returns to the Thessalonians** (1 Thess. 3:1-5) “Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, ³ so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. ⁴ For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.”
- **Timothy’s report of the Thessalonians** (1 Thess 3:6-13) “But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, ⁷ for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; ⁸ for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, ¹⁰ as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”

This lesson will study five aspects of Timothy’s report to Paul after returning from a fact finding visit to the Thessalonians.

1. Paul’s missionary evangelism team had a “seven point plan” for mission field.

- **Open door Policy** The Macedonia Call (Acts 16:6-10; Col.4:2-4; Acts 13:2)
 - Paul’s intentions are to go to Asia Minor but God, The Holy Spirit redirects – go West!
 - Listening to and Walking by means of The Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary!
 - It’s The Holy Spirit that Opens and Closes Doors – His Directive is where you want to be!
- **Preach the Gospel** Grace message (1 Cor.15:3-4) and the mechanics (Rom.1:16); (1 Thess.1:5-10)
 - Present a Grace Gospel clearly and correctly! Saved by Grace and Grace alone!
- **Disciple converts** (Matt.28:18-20; 1 Pet.2:2; 1 Thess.1:9 ; 1-2 Thessalonians)
 - Principle: Both the baby and mature Believer, growing in the faith will experience adversity!
 - 1st and 2nd Thessalonians should be taught to “new” (baby) Believers

- **Teach Basic Doctrines** (1 Thess.2:1-12; Heb.5:13-14; 1-2 Corinthians)
 - 50 Things we freely receive at the point of Salvation which we can't lose in time not eternity
 - The Essence of God
 - Death and the Resurrection
 - Grace Orientation
 - Eternal Life
 - The Love of God
 - Water Baptism
 - The Eucharist (The Lord's Supper)
 - The three Classifications of Sin
 - Positional Truth

Additional Doctrines that should be taught to the Spiritually Advancing Believers:

- The Godhead / The Deity of Jesus Christ, The Son of God
 - Spirituality
 - Carnality
 - Confession of Sin (Rebound)
 - Three Categories of Suffering
 - The Faith Cycle
 - Three Classifications of The Will of God
 - The Plan of God
 - Ambassadorship
 - The Angelic Conflict
 - Prayer
 - Spiritual Gifts
- **Plant churches** (1 Thess.1:1) [Jason's home] (Acts 17:5-10; Acts 2:42-47); (1-2 Tim. and Titus)
 - 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus ought to be the first books taught in a newly formed Body
 - Five things need to be in place for a healthy church Body to grow:
 - Fellowship within the Body
 - Spiritual Growth Dynamics constantly taught and exercised
 - Ambassadorship being a Body wide responsibility
 - A Prayer Network in place and functioning
 - Missionary Evangelism Supported
 - Recognition of the principles that the local Body (church) is to be the "Salt" and "Light" to their neighborhood, city, state, nation and to the world.
 - **Select, train, ordain deacons and Spiritually Gifted Communicators, Pastors and Evangelists.**
(1 Thess.5:12-13) (1 Tim.3; Titus 1; Acts 6:1-7)
 - It should be the norm for the local Body of Believers (the Church) to have multiple Gifted Communicators within its congregation.
 - But, they should not be a source of contention or division within the congregation.
 - All the Glory should go to God, Honor to The Lord and Service to us!
 - Principle: It's never the "man"; it's always the "message"!
 - **Teach Advance Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD) of the New Covenant in the Church Age.**
(Heb.5:14; Ephesians-Colossians)
 - Christology - The Study of Christ with emphasis on The Incarnation. (Matt., Mk., Lk, Jn.)
 - The Mystery Doctrines of the Church Age
 - The Dynamics of the New Covenant vs. the Old Covenant. (Law vs. Grace)
 - Dispensations / Civilizations
 - The Rapture / Eschatology (End Times)

- The Judgment Seat of Christ (Crowns and Rewards)
- The New Heaven and The New Earth

2. Missionary evangelism can be a lonely and home-sick ministry experience whether national or international.

(1 Thess.3:1) “Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best (eudokeo / a.a.ind.1pl) to be left behind (kataleipo / a.p.infin) at Athens alone.” (2 Tim.1:15; 4:16-18)

The missionary team on the field must make the decisions important to the field ministry. As the leader of the mission team, Paul had consulted the team and sent Timothy.

(1 Thess.3:2) “And **we sent** Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow-worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith.” (1 Cor.3:5-9)

Timothy was sent back to instruct, inspect, and report on the spiritual status of the infant church (1 Thess.3:5-6).

3. This infant Christian church was under undeserved suffering for its identity with teachings of Jesus Christ.

There are three categories of suffering in the Christian Way of Life (CWL)

- Self-Induced Misery (SIM) (Acts 20:6-12)
- Divine discipline (D/D) (Heb.12:5-11; 1 John 5:16)
- Undeserved suffering (U/S) (Phil.1:29) [pascho] (Acts 1:3)

(1 Thess.3:5-6) “So that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions (**thlipsis**); for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to **suffer affliction**; and so it came to pass, as you know. For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and labor would be in vain.” (2 Cor.4:8; John 16:21; Col.1:24; 2Cor.11:28)

4. Suffering is an important basic doctrine to teach new converts.

(1 Thess.3:4) “For indeed when we were with you, **we kept telling you in advance** that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.”

(1 Pet.4:12-13) “Beloved, **do not be surprised** (me xenizo) [not to think something strange] (p.m.impv.2pl) [Stop thinking this way!] **at the fiery ordeal** (purosos / inst.s.f) (Eph.6:16) among you, which comes upon you **for your testing** (peirasmos / a.s.m), **as though some strange thing** (xenos / g.s.m) were happening to you; **but to the degree that you share the sufferings** (pathema / inst.pl.n) **of Christ, keep on rejoicing** (chairo / p.a.impv.2pl) ; **so that** also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice (chairo / a.p.subj.2pl) with exultation (agalliao / p.m.ptc.nplm).”

5. Christians must be taught that God has provided sufficient grace so that they can have perfect peace and joy and stability amidst great underserved suffering (John 16:33; 2 Cor.12:9).

(1 Thess.3:3) “So that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been **destined for this.**” (Phil.1:29; 1 Pet.4:12-13)

(James 1:2-4)

(Jms.1:2) **Counting** (hegeomai / a.m.impv.2pl) [command] **it all joy** - thinking and applying CBD –
When (hotan) **YOU** _____ / _____

(Jms.1:3) **Knowing** (ginosko / p.a.ptc.nplm) **that (hoti)** _____ produces
_____ (1 Pet.1:6-7; 1 thess.3:5)

(Jms.1:4) **Let patience** (he hupomone / n.s.f) (Rom.12:12) **have** (echo / p.a.impv.3ps) [command] her perfect
work **that (hina)** **YOU** _____ may **be** _____ (Rom.5:3-5)

(Phil.1:29-30) “For **to you** it has been **granted for Christ’s sake**, not only to believe in Him, **but also to suffer for His sake**, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.”