

## **STRENGTHENING AND ENCOURAGING NEW CONVERTS**

In this lesson we will study five aspects of Strengthening and Encouraging new converts on the Mission Field.

### **1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletic points.**

When Paul could endure it no longer, he sent Timothy back to the mission field to strengthen and encourage the new converts in the Word of God and to write a report on their spiritual progress for Paul.

- (1 Tim.3:1-2) **Timothy** was sent to strengthen and encourage in the faith and to write a report.
- (1 Tim.3:3-4) **Teaching** basic doctrines because of afflictions (thlipsis) [Undeserved Suffering for Christ].
- (1 Tim.3:5) **Temper** (ho peirazo/ p.a.ptensm) testing (periazō/ a.a.ind.3ps) the new convert's faith.

So, our labors would not be in vain **FOR**, the enemy was already right there, on the mission field!

### **2. The one who led the ministry on the mission field is responsible, early on, for spiritual growth stability of young believers. “We thought it best (eudokeo/ p.a.ptc.nplm).”**

#### **Doctrines to be taught:**

- Milk salvation doctrines (1 Pet.2:2) for the baby believers
- Basic meat doctrines on the Christian Way of Life for those Advancing believers (Heb.5:13-14).

(1 Tim.3:2) “To strengthen (to sterizo/ a.a.infin) and encourage (parakaleo/ a.a.infin) **in the faith.**”

Because Paul felt that he needed to reinforce them spiritually, a second trip was required since there was still an intensity of underserved suffering in the lives of these believers. (Angelic Conflict)

### **3. Note how Paul viewed his relationship with both his mission team and those believers in the mission field.**

(1 Tim.3:2) “We sent Timothy our brother and God's fellow worker.”

(1 Tim.3:1) “I am left alone at Athens.”

(1 Tim.2:1) “Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children.”

(2 Cor.11:2-3) “For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ”.

When Paul was forced to leave them after only three weeks, he felt like he had left them as orphans (without proper spiritual parenting) - “Having been taken from you (**apoprhanizomai/ bereft**).

4. **It is the responsibility of the mature mission team leader to be sure that specific basic doctrines were being taught to those young believers.**

Milk doctrines of salvation are necessary for stability in the Christian Way of Life experiencing attack in the Angelic Conflict (Eph.6:10-17).

Let me suggest **seven milk doctrines** to be developed. Paul listened to the spiritual needs on the mission field.

- **Essence of God and the Godhead's involvement in Grace Salvation**
  - (Rom.8:15-17; Gal.4:4-7; John 16:7-11).
- **Clarity of mankind's need for Grace Salvation**
  - (1 Cor.15:22; Rom.5:12-21; 1 Tim1:15).
- **Clarity of the Grace Gospel**
  - (1 Cor.15:1-4; 1 Cor.15:22; Rom.5:12-21; Col.1;13-14).
- **Clarity of God's security of Grace Salvation**
  - (Eph.2:8-9; John 10:28-30; 2 Cor.5:17)
- **Clarity of the believer's assurance of eternal life**
  - (John 3:16; 5:24; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-13).
- **Explain how God, as your Father deals with a believer's personal sin and carnality**
  - (1 Cor.3:1-3; Heb.12:5-11; 1 John 1:7-9; Gal.5:16-17).
- **Undeserved suffering in Christian Way of Life**
  - (Phil.1:29; 1 Thess.3:1-5; John 16:33; 1 Pet.5:8-0; 1:6-7; 4:12-14).

5. **The Tempter (satan) is always on the prowl to attack and devour.**

**(1 Thess.3:4-5)** “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 our labor would be in vain.”

**(Phil.1:29)** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

**(1 Pet.5:8-10)** “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** But **resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.** **After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.**”

**(2 Thess.3:3)** “But the **Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.**”

**(2 Cor.2:11)** “so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes”.