

HEARTS ESTABLISHED IN HOLINESS

We've divided (1 Thess.3:1-13) into four sections of studies.

- (1 Thess.3:1-5) **Return** of Timothy to Thessalonica.
- (1 Thess.3:6-10) **Report** of Timothy back to Paul.
- (1 Thess.3:11-13) **Reply** of Paul to Thessalonians.

In our lesson text, Paul responds to Timothy's report in the form of a prayer (1 Thess.3:11-13) [Note the 3 optatives].

- (1 Thess.3:11) **May Lord** "direct (kateuthero/ **a.a.opt.3ps**) our way to you."
- (1 Thess.2:12) **May the Lord** "increase (pleonazo/ **a.a.opt.3ps**) and abound (perisseuo/ **a.a.opt.3ps**) our love."
- (1 Thess.3:13) **May the Lord** "establish (to sterizo/ **a.a.infin**) our hearts without blame in holiness."

Today's lesson will study five aspects of Paul's prayer for Church Age Believers

Paul's prayer was to have "hearts to be established without blame (amemptos/ aplf) **in** (en+locative of sphere) **holiness** (hagiosune) [experiential sanctification] at the coming of our Lord Jesus with **all His saints** (hagios) [Rapture]."

1. Paul's prayer consists of three Greek optatives moods. The optative is used when the idea is subjectively possible (hopeful wish).

It is Paul's wish, but the Lord has the final say in it. (Not my will, but Thine be done) (Matt.26:39, 42; 1 John 5:14-15).

Then Paul used the articular aorist infinitive (verbal noun, not a mood) in (1 Thess.3:13) to express a specific aim of the action of the three aorist optatives of (1 Thess.3:11-12), which are to be applied to (1 Thess.3:13).

Paul was pointing them to the doctrine of Ultimate Sanctification in (1 Thess.3:13) - "The Lord establishing their hearts in holiness towards the Rapture.

2. Paul stated his three-fold prayer regarding his wish to visit them (1 Thess.3:11-13).

- **1st** - "May our God and Father Himself and the Lord Jesus **DIRECT our way** (ten hodos) [an open road with no detours, accidents, or delays] **to you.**" (1 Thess.3:11)
- **2nd** - "May the Lord **cause you to INCREASE and ABOUND in love for** (eis+acc) **one another, and for** (eis+acc) **all people,** just as we also do **for** (eis+acc) **you.**" (1 Thess.3:12)
- **3rd** - "May He (the Lord) establish your hearts without blame **in** (en+loc of sphere) **holiness** (hagiosune) [**The Indwelling Holy Spirit/ Experiential Sanctification**] before our God and Father." (1 Thess.3:13)

3. In our lesson text (1 Thess.4:13-18), Paul encouraged the newly converted Thessalonian believers.

Live out your Experiential Sanctification (establish hearts in holiness) by the filling ministry of the Indwelling Holy Spirit in your Christian Way of Life (Eph.5:18; Gal.5:16-17) in expectation of the imminence of the Rapture (1 Thess.4:3-18).

(1 Thess.3:13) “**So that** (eis+accusative preposition + articular aorist infin) [the divine results of (1 Thess.3:11-12) **He** (The Lord) **may establish** (to sterizo/ a.a.infin) [To fix or set,) **your hearts** (tas kardia/ aplf) **without blame in holiness** (Experiential Sanctification) **before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.**”

4. There are three phases in the Plan of God establishing our hearts in holiness (Experiential Sanctification) in the Christian Way of Life.

- **Phase ONE is salvation (Positional Sanctification)**
 - (2 Thess.2:13-14; Acts 26:18; 1 Thess.4:7; 1 Cor.1:2; 2 Tim.1:9)
 - Church Age Believers are called **SAINTS** (Holy/ hagios calling) because of Positional Sanctification (1 Cor.1:2; Rom.1:7).
- **Phase TWO is the Christian Way of Life (Experiential Sanctification)**
 - (1 Pet.1:14-16; Acts 20:32; 1 Thess.3:11-13; 2 Tim2:21-22; Rom.12:1-2).
 - The Word of Truth.
 - **Saint** is [1 of 20 status privileges](#) of Church Age Believer’s identification of the Christian Way of Life in Christ. (2 Cor.5:17; Phil.4:21-22)
- **Phase THREE is eternity (Ultimate Sanctification)**
 - (1 Thess.1:10; **3:13**) (**hagiosune**/ suffix of quality of holiness)
 - (1 John 3:1-2; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 5:23).

5. In (2 Thess.2:13-14), Paul taught that all three members of the Godhead (which is a big deal) are engaged in your Sanctification (1Pet.1:15).

- **God, the Father**
 - (2 Thess.2:13a) “But we should always give thanks to **God for you, brethren beloved** by the Lord, **because God** has chosen you from the beginning for salvation
- **God, the Holy Spirit**
 - (2 Thess.2:13b) “**Through sanctification (hagiasmos/ suffix of action) by the Spirit** and faith in the truth. (John 17:17; 1 Pet.3:15; Acts 20:32) (2 Thess.2:13)
- **God, the Son**
 - (2 Thess.3:14) “It was for this He called you through the **gospel**, that you may gain the glory of our **Lord Jesus Christ.**” (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; Gal.2:20)