Discovering the Treasures of the Word

1 Thessalonians Lesson #9, Chapter 3:1-5

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

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1.	What is Paul's train of thought connecting 3:1-5 to 2:17-20?
2.	What action did Paul take when he said "we could endure it no longer" (verses 1-2)?
3.	What was the purpose in sending Timothy to the Thessalonians (verses 2-5)?
4.	Define strengthen [ESV, NKJV establish (Strong's #4741)]:
	a. Define encourage [ESV exhort (Strong's #3870)]:
5.	Though the Thessalonians turned from idols to a living and true God and were growing in their faith, Paul knew all too well the importance of continued grounding in the Word of God. What do you learn about the process of strengthening and encouraging believers in the faith from the following verses? See Acts 15:32; 16:4-5; Romans 1:11-12; 16:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 3:10.

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6.	What are some specific ways you can strengthen and encourage others in their faith in the Lord Jesus?
7.	What did Paul remind the Thessalonians concerning his afflictions (verses 3-4)?
8.	From verses 3-4, what do you learn about Paul's view of affliction in his life?
9.	The word translated disturbed, moved, or unsettled means to shake, to sway back and forth and was used of a dog wagging his tail. How would Paul's afflictions shake or sway the young believers?
10.	What kind of affliction did Paul suffer? See 2 Cor. 11:23-29 and 1 Thess. 2:2, 16.
11.	What kind of affliction did the Thessalonians suffer? See 2 Cor. 8:1-2; 1 Thess. 1:6, 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:4.

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- 12. Paul says in verse 3 that he was destined for affliction and in verse 4 he told them he would suffer affliction. How did Paul know that? See Acts 9:15-16.
- 13. The Scriptures have much to teach us about enduring persecution for the sake of Jesus Christ. From the following verses note the cause of the persecution and/or the encouragement in affliction and anything else you find interesting! I know there are a lot of verses here. I grouped them so it wouldn't feel quite so daunting. This is still only a representation of verses on suffering from the Scriptures. Persevere, dear hearts!
 - a. Matt. 5:10-12; 10:21-22, 24, 34-39; 24:9:
 - b. Mk. 10:29-30; Luke 6:22-23; 12:51-53; Jn. 15:18-20; 16:2, 33:
 - c. Acts 14:22; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jas. 1:12:
 - d. 1 Pet. 2:20-21; 3:14; 4:12-14; 5:9; 1 Jn. 3:11-13:
- 14. Trials and persecutions will come, but what else do the Scriptures teach in regard to persecution? See 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:10.

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15.	In verse 5 Paul states another reason for sending Timothy to the church. What do you learn?
16.	What does it mean if something has been done in vain?
17.	What is the connection between Satan's tempting the Thessalonians and Paul's labor being in vain?
18.	Look up the following references to see how Paul regarded his work. What kind of attitudes and actions do you glean from these verses: 1 Cor. 15:10, 14, 58; 2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 2:2; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thess. 2:1-2?
19.	What's the big deal? Why is Paul so concerned that his labor toward them might have been in vain?
20.	Are there areas in your life in which Paul (or your pastor or discipler, someone who has built spiritual truths in your life) might say, "My labor has been in vain in her"? If so, what are some steps you need to take to correct that area in your life?

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21. What are some ways in which a spiritual leader's labor has born fruit in your life?

"Forward, believer in Christ, to the toils, duties, and trials of another stage of life's journey! Jesus is enough for them all. Jesus will be with you in them all. Jesus will triumphantly conduct you through them all. Beloved one, live in the constant expectation of soon seeing Jesus face to face; conversing with He whom here below, cheered, comforted, and sweetened many a weary step of your Christian pilgrimage. That moment is speeding on. In a little while and all that now wounds and ruffles, tempts and pollutes, will have disappeared like the foam upon the billow, and you shall eternally repose your weary soul in the bosom of Jesus!" Octavius Winslow