

“Interpreting Troubles”

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-10

Tempted in Trials

God is not at work in this.

Things are not working out for me.

This is not fair.

If God loved me, this wouldn't be
happening.

1 Corinthians 10:13

God does not provide a way to escape the trial. God provides a way to escape the temptation to we face in trials to sin by disobeying God in our response to the trial.

“Flee from idolatry!” (10:14)

Application

Trials and hardships are not evil.

Not an indication that God is displeased

Spiritual benefit in humble acceptance

Solicitation to evil if I choose to doubt

God and disobey His Word.

Paul's Concern

Affliction may tempt us to turn away from Christ, and may tempt our faith to weaken.

1 Thessalonians 3:3-5

“Faith” in 3:1-10

“Faith” in 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10 is not a reference to the collection of gospel truths, written doctrine, but “faith” is *living belief* in that doctrine.

Believing is one thing; living it is another!

Timothy's Mission

“Strengthen” = “to support or buttress with the intent of establishing

= a firm foundation in sound doctrine;
strong faith is the result of knowledge of
Scripture

Timothy's Mission

“Encourage” = “or comfort –

“parakalesai” = The Comforter – H.S.

= “to call near, to invite, to come along side to motivate to live in ways pleasing to God; application of doctrine to life”

“Disturbed” in 3:3

= “a dog wagging his tail to draw attention to himself, to get something; to allure, fascinate, flatter, beguile”

Don’t allow affliction to lure you away from Christ.

“We” in 3:3-4

“We” meant Paul, Timothy, Silas, and all believers.

“Indeed all who desire to live godly in Christ will be persecuted.”

2 Timothy 3:12

Warning Beforehand

Paul warned the Thessalonians of affliction beforehand so that they would understand that their affliction, and his, was part of God's sovereign plan.

Affliction and the Christian

Don't think that our troubles mean
God's plan is not working out.

Don't think that our troubles mean God
is displeased with us.

In This Case Affliction Was:

An indication of Satan's opposition.

An indication of sinners' salvation.

An indication of saints' sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Elements of Spiritual Well-Being

Christian affection and desire for fellowship, Sacrifice, Compassion, Protection, Delight and joy in spiritual progress of others, Gratitude to God for faith of others, and Intercessory prayer.

Measure yourself!