

## Why Trials Shouldn't Unsettle You – 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 – December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- I want to talk with you today about a simple yet vital truth that has the potential to change the way we live our Christians lives.
- It's that of the difficult trials in life that we all go through, not unsettling us, shaking us, or destroying us, and our faith in Christ.
- Here in our text, the Apostle Paul, very emotionally and passionately provides us with two reasons for this concerning our trials.

### 1. Trials should strengthen our faith (Verses 1-3a)

1 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3a so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.

- Here, Paul tells them that they sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them in their faith so the trials wouldn't unsettle them.
- The reason being is that every test trial and temptation we experience in our lives is aimed at weakening or destroying our faith.
- Satan will attack us in order to destroy our faith, but God takes and makes that trial and attack to actually strengthen our faith.

- I am of the belief and certainly have experienced in my own walk that our faith can be tried in times of adversity and prosperity.
- This because in times of adversity we're prone to doubt God, and during those times of prosperity we get busy and forget God.
- It's for this reason that God won't allow us to be tried and tested above that which we're able to bear up under in the temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

### 2. Trials should be expected in our life (Verses 3b-5)

3b ...For you know quite well that we are destined for them. 4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. 5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

- I find it most interesting that Paul would remind them that he kept telling them that trials and persecution was destined for them.
- You'll forgive me for the bluntness with which I say this, but many a pastor today refuses to talk about what's really destined.
- By that I mean there's much in the way of fulfilling our "destiny" but little in the way of what that "destiny" will actually be for us.

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:21-22 - 21 They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

James 1:2-4 - 3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Peter 4:12-13 -12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.