

1 Thessalonians 3

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1. **He sent a man.** The mature saints in the church must help younger Christians to grow in Christ. **Read Philippians 2:19-24.** How did Paul regard Timothy? How was Timothy different than all the others Paul had access to? What did Paul need from Timothy?

Discuss the need for older men in the faith to nurture younger men. How can this relationship be helpful and encouraging to each other? Do you have a younger or older spiritual relationship with someone in your life? _____

What action do you need to take? _____

2. **He wrote them a letter.** Paul not only cared for Timothy but he also cared for the Thessalonian church. Not only did he send Timothy but he wrote to them, reminding them of the word he taught when He was among them. **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** List and discuss key points of this passage. What important components of the Christian life can you find for the church? _____

How will we live if we are ignorant of God's word? _____

What action do you need to take according to the items found in the Ephesians 4? _____

3. **He prayed for them.** *"The two-fold ministry of the Word of God and prayer is what establishes a church. If there is all teaching and preaching and no prayer, then the people will have light but no power. If there is all prayer but no teaching of the Word, you may have a group of enthusiasts who have more heat than light!" Wiersbe*

Read Luke 22:31-32, 1 Samuel 12:23. Who did Jesus pray for? Why? _____

Who did Samuel pray for? Why? _____

Samuel considered it a _____ to not pray for his brothers. What was the last phrase in the Samuel verse? Why is instruction important? _____

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What action do you need to take in regard to your prayer life? _____

4. **He reminded them of Christ's return.** *"As we have noted before, the theme of both epistles to the Thessalonians is the second coming of Christ. No truth establishes the believer faster or better than this one. In the midst of testing and tribulation, these believers could assure and encourage themselves with the promise of His coming. When temptations came their way, as they did daily in those heathen cities, they could keep themselves clean by remembering that Christ might come that very day. If weary of laboring and witnessing, they could take on new strength and courage by looking for His return. No truth in the Bible has a greater effect on the believer's heart, mind, and will than the truth of the second coming of Christ."* Weirsbe

Read Luke 12:42-48. Here we see the nature of backsliding. (Forgetting Christ and acting for self.) Why is it important to live as if Christ may come at any moment? **Read Phillipians 2:15-16.** How are we to be found when Christ returns? _____

We know we cannot be perfect; describe and discuss in group what we can do? _____

What actions do you need to take to be ready for the second coming of Christ? _____

Review all of your action steps from this lesson and after your group discussion. If you **write down your goals** and **make yourself accountable** to another for those goals it can be a time of great growth and spiritual blessing.