Women’s Bible Study

I & II Thessalonians

**Fourth Study** - I Thessalonians Chapter Three

**“Paul’s Response to Timothy’s Report”**

Studies in I & II Thessalonians pages 24 - 27

Once again, the questions from Rev. Hanko’s Study Guides are in parenthesis after the questions.

All quotes by Wm. Hendrikson are from his New Testament Commentary on I & II Thessalonians

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**Day One**

**Timothy Sent to Establish and Comfort the Thessalonians**

Today we will look at why Paul sent Timothy to the church at Thessalonica.

**I Thessalonians 3:1&2 - Study Guide page 24-25**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Three Acts 16:1-5 - concerning Timothy

Romans 1:9-12 - Paul’s longing for saints Ephesians 6:21-24 - Paul’s sending another

**Do:** 1. Read the introduction to Lesson Five on page 24 in Rev. Hanko’s Study Guide.

2. The apostle’s love for the congregation (#2 on page 25)

Why did Paul send Timothy to the church at Thessalonica? (Q.2.a. pg. 25)

3. What recommendation did Paul give to this young coworker who comes to them alone (vs. 2)?

1. 2.a.1) pg. 25)
2. What does Paul commission Timothy to do (vs. 2)? (Q. 2.a. 2) pg. 25)
3. Paul adds in verse 5: “I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter has tempted (lured) you, and our labour be in vain.” Is there a falling away of saints? Or did Paul seek assurance that their faith was genuine and withstood the test (Canons of Dordt 5:8)? (Q. 2.a. 3) pg. 25)

**Food for thought:** “Timothy is called a brother, that is, a fellow-believer, one who by sovereign grace belongs to the family of God in Christ. He is our brother, the word ‘our’ being probably inclusive - brother of the Thessalonian believers as well as of the missionaries. But while he is our brother, he is at the same time God’s minister…The particular sphere in which Timothy ministers is the gospel of Christ, the glad tidings (good news) of salvation through him. The purpose for which Timothy was sent was in order to strengthen and to encourage… In view of fierce persecution and a sinister slander-campaign from without and also in view of the immature intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of the Thessalonian believers, the mission of Timothy was altogether proper, though it meant a real sacrifice for those who were left behind at Athens… Timothy, then, must tell these recent converts to the Christian faith, ‘You’re doing fine. Continue to do so. But do so more and more’… It is true, of course, that the two terms overlap: when one is encouraged, he is also strengthened!” Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you:** I Thessalonians 3:2

**“When one is encouraged he is also strengthened.”**

**May the gospel with which we are fed in the Lord’s house from week to week,**

**along with our private study and worship, encourage us and strengthen our faith.**

**Day\_Two**

**Appointed unto Affliction**

Today we will look at how Paul strengthens and comforts the Thessalonians.

**I Thessalonians 3:3&4 - Study Guide page 25-26**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3: 1-5 Acts 14:21&22 Romans 5:1-5

Romans 8:35-39 II Cor. 1:4 II Cor. 4:6-14 Phil. 1:27-30

**Do:** 1. Why should not they and we be moved, that is disturbed or troubled when we are persecuted for our faith (vs. 4)? (Q. 2.b. pg. 25)

2. What does Acts 14:22 teach regarding persecution? (Q. 2.b.1) pg. 25)

3. What does it mean that we are “appointed” unto affliction (I Cor. 4:9)? (Q. 2.b.2) pg. 25)

1. In what special sense was this true of the apostles (See I Cor. 4:9)? (Q. 2.b.3) pg. 26)

**Food for thought:** “Scripture teaches that not only does God permit, but He wisely orders trials and afflictions as a necessary good for His people. The Belgic Confession, in stating that nothing happens in this world without God’s appointment, supports that single statement with no fewer than 25 Scripture passages! This is a truth that is woven like a thread throughout the whole Bible. That God appoints unto us our afflictions is often taught in Scripture as a truth of great comfort for the children of God. God uses affliction to make us beautiful ornaments of His grace, fit to decorate His house of many mansions. It is not for us to try to figure out the ‘why’. Our afflictions as the handiwork of God, the outworking of His providence, are His way to lead us to glory.” Rev. Steve Key in the Standard Bearer article: God’s Providence and Evil

**To take with you today: I Thessalonians 3:3**

**“Afflictions that have been predicted,**

**and that take place in accordance with this prediction**

**serve to strengthen faith.”** Wm. Hendrickson

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**Day\_Three\_**

**“Promised Afflictions”**

Today we will look at how afflictions will come to those who live faithfully.

**I Thessalonians 3: 3&4 Study Guide page 26**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3:1-5 John 15: 18 through 16:4 John 16:33 II Timothy 3:10-12

**Do:** 1. Yesterday we answered the questions: What does it mean that we are “appointed” unto afflictions?

Today Rev. Hanko asks in connection with that:

Had Jesus, as well as Paul, warned them and us of this? Prove your answer. (Q. 2.b.4) pg. 26)

1. Read how the saints in the Old Testament suffered afflictions:
2. Noah Matt. 24: 37-39 Luke 17: 22-27 Hebrews 11:7

#2 continued….

**\_\_\_Day 3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_cont.**

1. Moses Exodus 17: 1-4
2. saints Hebrews 11: 32-40
3. Read how the saints in the New Testament suffered afflictions:
4. Peter John 21:17-19
5. Paul Acts 20: 17-24 II Cor. 11:23-27
6. How do these passages tell us we will be persecuted for our faith?
7. John 16:33
8. Acts 14: 21&22
9. II Timothy 3:12
10. In what ways are we being persecuted for our faith already now?

**Food for thought:** “Now our afflictions of which Paul speaks here are designed and decreed by God to bring us in a particular place in the body of Christ, which body God designed and builds perfectly. Our afflictions are not what God sends upon us in His holy wrath. Our afflictions are sent in God’s love. We do well to bear in mind that each one of those whom God eternally chose to be a member of the body of Christ belongs to the church which He designed. And God designed a particular place for every single one of His elect, with a particular work to perform as the member of Christ’s body, and with a particular work to perform in a particular place in that body of Christ…Do not then for one second question God’s love and wisdom in what He sends upon us.”

Rev. John A. Heys in the Standard Bearer article: The Everlasting Glory our Afflictions Work

**To take with you today: John 16:33**

**“Only as I know that whatever befalls me**

**is sent by my God for Jesus’ sake unto my eternal profit,**

**can I find assurance and comfort through every adversity on this earth**.”

Rev. G. Van Baren in the Standard Bearer article: Does God Send Sickness?

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**Day\_Four\_**

**Preserved in Faith**

Today we see from God’s Word that He ever upholds His elect.

**I Thessalonians 3:5-7 Study Guide page 26**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3: 5-8 John 10: 28&29 I Peter 1:1-9

**Do:** 1. Upon his return, what favorable report had Timothy given (verse 6)? (Q. 2.c. pg. 26)

1. Timothy had also reported a lack in the Thessalonians’ faith. What was lacking? (vs. 6b)

(Q. 2.d. pg. 26)

**\_\_\_Day 4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

1. According to verse 7, what were Paul and the others comforted by, and what concerns did that comfort overcome?

**Food for thought:** “We do well to remember that according to this doctrine (Preservation of the Saints) it is God’s elect who are preserved. He preserves them because he has chosen them in Christ (Eph. 1: 3,4,11) The elect are not preserved apart from faith, however. Faith is always the way of, though never the reason for, salvation… Believers are not preserved from falling, but from falling away; not from temptation, but from being destroyed by temptation; not from sin, but from the sin unto death. That believers can and do fall is demonstrated in Scripture by the examples of men like David and Peter. That they cannot fall away is demonstrated by their restoration. Indeed, in the case of Peter, the Lord gave assurance beforehand that Peter would not fall away: “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31&32) Rev. Ron Hanko in Doctrine According to Godliness

**To take with you today: Philippians 1:6**

**“That believers do not lose their salvation is not due to their obedience,**

**their faithfulness, and their efforts,**

**but solely to the grace of God that keeps and protects them from falling away.”**

(Rev. R. Hanko)

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**Day Five\_**

**Paul’s Expression of Joy**

Today we will see the joy Paul expresses, knowing the Thessalonians stood fast in their faith.

**I Thessalonians 3:8 Study Guide page 26**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3: 5-10 Deut. 8:1-2 Acts 11: 22&23 Phil. 1:27-30

**Do:** 1. What does Paul mean when he says, “For now we live, if (since or when) ye stand fast in the Lord”

(vs. 8)? (Q.2.d.1) pg. 26)

1. Does chapter 2:19-20 shed light on this? (Q. 2.d.1) pg. 26)
2. Using the following texts, consider our own lives and how we are to stand fast:

John 15:4

Acts 11:22&23

I Cor. 15:58

Eph. 3: 17&18

Eph. 6: 10-18

Rev. 3: 3&11

Continued….

**\_Day 5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

**Food for thought:** “The way of salvation is the way of holiness, and there is no other way to glory. It is impossible that one who is purchased by the blood of Christ, renewed and regenerated by the Spirit of God and indwelt by the Spirit, should continue in the way of destruction.

Rev. Ron Hanko in Doctrine According to Godliness

**To take with you today: John 15:4**

**“No believer can love his sins and want to keep them.**

**The perseverance of the saints is a great comfort.**

**It not only assures that God’s people will all be in glory with Christ in the life to come,**

**but that they will be holy in this life.”** (Rev. R. Hanko)

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**Day Six\_**

**Unspeakable Joy**

Today we see how Paul rejoices at the news of the faithfulness of the Thessalonians.

**I Thessalonians 3:9 Study Guide page 26**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3: 5-10 Phil. 2:12-18 II John 4 III John 1-4

**Do:** 1. Why does Paul in verse 9 put his thanks in the form of a question: “What thanks can we render?”

(Q. 2.d.2) pg. 26)

1. Is his joy merely natural? Or spiritual? Prove your answer (Q.2.d.3) pg. 26)

see also :

Phil 2:12-18

II John 4

III John 4

1. As mothers and grandmothers do we have more joy in our children’s physical health and natural well-being, or their spiritual health and well-being? What do we spend more time with?
2. Do we experience Paul’s joy in the steadfast faith of others?
3. Do we thank God often for His faithfulness in upholding His saints?

**Food for thought:** “This is a rhetorical question (verse 9). Paul’s soul is flooded with gratitude to God, and this to such an extent that the consciousness of his own inability to make and adequate return to God grieves him. What has been received by the Thessalonians has also been received, in a different form, and on account of them, by him and his companions. The report of Timothy has given Paul and Silas a new lease on life. It has caused them to revive. They are deeply convinced of the fact that anything they can bring to God in return for ‘all the joy by means of which they rejoice; is as nothing.” Wm. Hendrikson

Continued…

**To take with you today: I Thessalonians 3:9**

**May we rejoice in God’s covenant faithfulness**

**when we see His Spirit working in fellow-believers and in our children.**

**May we work at being examples of true godliness to them in our walk and in our speech.**

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**Day Seven\_**

**That We Might Perfect that Which is Lacking in Your Faith**

Today we take a closer look at what Paul possibly meant by a lack in the faith of the Thessalonians

**I Thessalonians 3:10&11 - (No Study Guide)**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3: 8-13 Romans 1: 9&10 II Timothy 1: 3&4

**Do:** 1. When Timothy returned and told of the faith and love of the Thessalonians, what was Paul’s great

desire?

1. Although we are not told what was lacking in the faith of the Thessalonians, Wm. Hendrikson mentions three possibilities. What could they be, according to the following verses:

1. I Thes. 4:1&10
2. I Thes. 4:13
3. I Thes. 5:14

d. other??

**Food for thought:** Hendrikson writes the following concerning the three possibilities lacking in the faith of the Thessalonians:

“Although the nature of these deficiencies is not pointed out in the present passage, the epistle contains the following hints:

a The Thessalonians are somewhat confused with respect to the doctrine of Christ’s return. Hence,

by speaking about deficiencies Paul is already preparing for what he is going to say in 4: 13 - 5:3

1. Though these recent converts have been blessed with many a spiritual grace, there is room for

improvement. The virtues already present must begin to abound more and more (4:1 & 10)

1. Some of the members of the congregation are disorderly, some fainthearted, some weak (5:14)

The content of the prayer or petition (vs. 10) is stated in two infinitive-clauses, but the two really express one idea, namely, that God’s providence may permit the missionaries to return so that they may once more… be present among and rejoice in the fellowship of the Thessalonian believers in order to supply the deficiencies of their faith. If this exposition of the term ‘deficiencies’ be correct, it is clear that the word ‘faith’ (‘the deficiencies of your faith’) is used in a sense which includes both the subjective exercise of trust in the Lord, and the objective revelation of God with respect to the work of redemption. Having informed the readers about the constant prayer which both Paul and Silas are constantly uttering, the ardent wish is now expressed that this petition may be granted (verse 11).”

**To take with you today: I Thessalonians 3:10**

**“Yea, for the sake of friends and kin, my heart desires thy peace,**

**And for the house of God the Lord my care shall never cease.”** Psalter 348 st. 6

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**\_Day Eight\_**

**Paul’s Benediction**

Today we will begin to look at Paul’s blessing to the church

**I Thessalonians 3: 12&13 Study Guide page 26**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 3:7-13 Romans 13:8-10 Philippians 1:1-11

**Do:** 1. Paul’s prayer that God may direct his way that he may once more labor among them becomes a benediction. (#3 pg. 26) What is Paul’s desire for the church? (Q. 3.a. pg. 27)

2. To whom does the ‘all men’ refer? Note that ‘men’ is in italics. (vs. 12) (Q. 3.b. pg. 27)

1. Read verses 12 & 13 over. Why does love come first here? (before holiness in verse 13) and why does Paul seem to give love such emphasis?

4. Read over verse 12 and explain how that is worked in our lives.

**Food for thought:** “The verbs to abound and to overflow are close synonyms. Together they express one idea, namely, that the Thessalonian believers may not merely increase in that most eminent virtue, namely, love - as the outward evidence of their living faith - but may actually abound; yes, that they may abound in such a manner that this ocean of love, being full, reaches to the top edge of its borders round about and even overflows, so that it reaches not only fellow- Christians, in fulfillment of Christ’s ‘new commandment’, but even outsiders, being a love ‘toward one another and toward all.’

The *purpose* of this abounding and overflowing in love is expressed as follows: in order that he may strengthen your hearts, so that they may be blameless in holiness in the presence of our God and Father. The Lord by means of love, strengthens the inner purposes and desires. Hearts thus strengthened will be less prone to crave the unseparated life, the life of the world. Rather, they will tend in the direction of the wholly separated life, so that, trusting entirely in Christ and in his redemption and having experienced the transforming influences of his Spirit they will be blameless, in a state and condition of holiness, and this in the very presence of our God and Father, that is, before his judgment-seat.” Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you today: I Thessalonians 3:12**

**“Love is the divine law of life, selfishness is sin.**

**When grace restores us to our proper relationship with God and His creation,**

**love is the very instinct of our renewed nature.**

**The master motive for benevolence is the love of God.**

**It is an argument which will never lose its force.”**

C.H. Spurgeon in Spurgeon’s Devotional Bible

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**\_Day Nine\_-**

**To the End….Paul’s Ultimate Goal for the Thessalonians**

Today we look at what Paul desired for the Thessalonian believers.

**I Thessalonians 3:12 & 13 - Study Guide page 27**

**Read:** I Thess. Chapter Three Eph. 4:17-24 I Pet. 1:13-16 I John 4:7-13

Continued…

**\_\_Day 9 cont.**

**Do:** 1. How do we increase and abound in love? I John 4:7-11

2. What ultimate goal did the apostle seek for the church? (Q. 3.c. pg. 27)

3. What is it to be holy?

Deut. 7:6

Eph. 4:17-24

Eph. 5:27

Col. 1:19-22

I Peter 1:13-16

1. Is the truth of these verses evident in my life?

**Food for thought:** “The basic idea of the word holiness is that of ‘separation.’ To be holy is to be separate. Thus in the Old Testament, Israel was a holy people, separate from the other nations…Today the church is a separate and holy nation… The members must therefore be holy. Holiness, however, always has two parts to it. It is both separation *from* something, and separation *unto* something. Both are important. Believers are called first to be separate from wickedness and wicked persons. They cannot go out of the world but must nevertheless separate themselves as much as possible from the company, the fellowship, the deeds, and the life of the ungodly. (II Cor. 6:16-18) also speaks of the fact that we are separated unto God. Without this, holiness is not complete.” Rev. Ron Hanko in Doctrine According to Godliness

**To take with you today: I Thessalonians 3:13**

**“To be holy, separated, and consecrated to God is not only for the Lord’s day**

**or for a few hours on the Lord’s day.**

**Also our whole life has been purchased by Christ,**

**belongs to God, is consecrated to God, and must be lived in holiness.” (**Rev. R. Hanko)

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**\_Day Ten**

**At the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Today we take a look at what Paul teaches here about Christ’s second coming.

**I Thessalonians 3:13 - Study Guide page 27**

**Read:** I Thess. 3:11-13 I Thess. 4:14-17 Jude 14&15 Rev. 7:9-14 Rev. 19:11-16

**Do:** 1. What does it mean that Christ will be coming “with all his saints” (vs. 13)?

See Revelation 19:14 in connection with Rev. 7:9 (Q. 3.d. pg. 27)

1. Rev. H. Hoeksema wrote the following on Revelation 19 in Behold He Cometh: “But now He appears. And He appears as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. And His very appearance and names indicate that it shall go ill with the lords of the world, who have refused to recognize His authority of the Word of God. But He is not alone. #2 continued…

\_Day 10 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“We read that the armies that are in the heaven follow Him. Who are they? Some have it that they are angels… But it is not to be maintained that these are the only ones. Yea, it is not even to be defended that they are especially mentioned in this instance. The way they are described informs us differently.

In the first place, like their Captain Who leads them, they also are mounted on white horses. And therefore, there is a certain similarity between them and their great King. But especially the fact that they are pictured as being clothed in fine linen, white and pure, makes us think that this army is not constituted of the angels in heaven, but much rather of the saints who are with Christ. For this garment of fine linen, white and pure, denotes that they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, as well as that they have been faithful to their King and performed righteous acts. They are garments which have been given them of grace. And this is not applicable to the angels, but only to the saints of Christ.”

1. From notes taken at Prof. Engelsma’s class on Eschatology: When Christ comes, He is going to be

accompanied by all of the elect believers. If you are a believer, we are going to come with Him. We are not only going to admire his power and glory, we are going to share in it. We will come with Him. He is going to come with us. How must that be understood? What is going to happen at the moment He returns? He will appear as the heavens are rolled back. At that instant He will raise the dead from on high (so that they can see Him come). Then at once all elect are going to be caught up into the air to be with the Lord and we will come with Him in that way. That is the rapture in the Biblical sense of the word. When Christ appears, all elect are caught up with Him, and come down with him to judge.

**Food for thought:** “…when the Lord Jesus returns, God will bring with him those who, throughout the ages, have lived the life of Christian separation from the world and of devotion to God. By God they had been ‘set apart’ to his worship and service so that, through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, they had become saints ‘in experience as well as position’, and at death had entered the kingdom above. Not a single one of them will be left behind in heaven; all those who at death went to heaven - and therefore are now with him in heaven - will leave their celestial abodes at the very moment when the Lord begins his descent. Very quickly they will reunite with their bodies, which now become gloriously resurrected bodies, and will then immediately (together with those children of God who still survive on earth, and who will be changed ‘in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye’) ascend in order to meet the Lord.” Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you today: Jude 14**

**“So let them shout before our God, For, lo, He comes, He comes with might,**

**To wield the scepter and the rod, To judge the world with truth and right.”** Psalter 258 st. 7

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**\_Day Eleven**

**The Parousia**

Today we look at Paul’s repeated reference to the Thessalonians, of Christ’s second coming.

**I Thessalonians 3:13 - Study Guide page 27**

**Read:** I Thess 3:11-13 I Thess. 1:8-10 I Thess. 2:18-20 I Thess. 4:13-18 I Thess. 5:23-28

**Do:**

1. At the end of Lesson Three, Rev. Hanko writes about the Parousia. What is the Parousia?
2. Do not fail to notice Paul’s repeated reference to the *parousia* at the end of some chapters. What is the significance of this? (Q. 3.e. pg. 27)

Continued…

\_\_Day 11 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Find a reference to that:

a. at the end of I Thessalonians chapter 1.

b. at the end of I Thessalonians chapter 2.

c. at the end of I Thessalonians chapter 4.

d. near the end of I Thessalonians chapter 5.

1. Rev. Hanko called verses 11 & 12 a benediction. According to verse 13, what was to be the purpose of that blessing in their lives?
2. How does verse 13 show that our sanctification is all of the Lord?

**Food for thought:** “By the parousia we understand the final, sudden, personal, and visible coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, on, or with, the clouds of heaven, for the purpose of raising the dead and executing judgment, to give everyone according as his work shall be, and to make all things new. It is the consummation of all wonders, and therefore necessarily itself a wonder which passes our boldest comprehension and which certainly cannot be explained from the natural development of things. It is the fulfillment of God’s counsel with respect to all things in time.”

Rev. H. Hoeksema in Reformed Dogmatics

**To take with you today: Philippians 1:6**

**The goal of creation is Christ’s second coming.**

**Jesus will have pre-eminence in all things**

**The whole Bible is straining for the second coming**

**The whole Bible says “Come Lord Jesus”**

from notes taken at Prof. Engelsma’s lectures on Eschatology

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**\_Day Twelve**

**Christ’s Second Coming**

Today we will look at some texts related to the second coming of Christ.

**I Thessalonians 3:13 - No Study Guide Questions**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Chapter Three

**Do:** 1. We will be learning much more about Christ’s second coming in our study of Thessalonians

What do we learn about Christ’s second coming from the following texts:

1. Matthew 24: 36
2. Acts 1: 6-11
3. Titus 2:11-14
4. II Peter 3: 9-12

2. How important a place do the truths of Titus 2:11-14 hold in my life today? Continued…

\_\_\_Day 12 con’t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Food for thought:** “… our joyful expectation of the appearing in glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus effectively prepares us for the life with him. Now, how does it do this? First, because the Second coming will be so altogether glorious that believers will not want to ‘miss out on it’ but will want ‘to be manifested with Christ in glory’ (Col 3:4). Second, because this blissful expectation fills believers with gratitude, and gratitude produces preparedness by God’s grace. If someone has conferred a great benefit upon you, you will wish to have everything ready so that you can give him a hearty welcome. When we think of the way in which Christ, having renewed our souls, is going to renew our bodies so that they will be like his glorious body, how he will receive us when we go forth to meet him in the air, how he will vindicate us in the final judgment, how we shall dwell with him forever in a gloriously renewed universe; and when, in addition to all this, we reflect on the fact that we had deserved none of this glory but only everlasting damnation, then indeed, we by his grace will prepare ourselves thoroughly to meet him at his coming.”

Wm. Hendrikson on Titus 2:13 in his book The Bible on the Life Hereafter

**To take with you today: Titus 2:13**

**“By hope itself is meant earnest yearning, confident expectation, and patient waiting.**

**This expression ‘the blessed hope’ means ‘the realization of that hope’.**

**The realization of this hope is the appearing in glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus.**

**This hope is called blessed because it imparts preparedness, bliss, happiness, delight, and glory.”**

Wm Hendrikson in The Bible on the Life Hereafter

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**\_\_Day Thirteen\_**

**Review of I Thessalonians Chapter Three**

Notes taken from Wm. Hendrikson, Matthew Henry, and Jamison Fausett Brown

3:1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

3:1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, (Because of their earnest love for the Thessalonians and in view of the fact that Paul’s return was hindered by Satan, and they could not endure the separation any longer) we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; (they thought it good to deprive themselves of Timothy’s help at Athens)

**3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:**

**3:2 And sent Timotheus,** (and they sent Timothy)  **our brother,** (fellow believer) **and minister** (servant) **of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ,** (our fellowlabourer who’s ministry is preaching the good news of salvation) **to establish you,** (in order to, or for the purpose of strengthening them) **and to comfort you concerning your faith:** (and to comfort them for the furtherance of their faith)

**3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto**

**3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions:** (so that we may prevent anyone of you from being deceived or shaken in the midst of these afflictions) **for yourselves know** (you know because we candidly told you) **that we** (all believers) **are appointed thereunto.** (are appointed or set for affliction by God’s counsel)

Continued….

**\_\_Day 13 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.**

**3:4 For verily,** (truly) **when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation;** (we kept telling you in advance that we were about to be afflicted)  **even as it came to pass, and ye know.** (just as you know that it actually happened.)

**3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.**

**3:5 For this cause,** (For this reason) **when I** (Paul) **could no longer forbear,** (when I could no longer stand it) **I sent to know your faith,** (I sent Timothy to learn about your faith) **lest by some means the tempter have tempted you,** (whether your faith stood the trial) **and our labour be in vain.** (and our {the missionaries} toil would turn out to have been useless.)

**3:6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:**

**3:6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us,** (But now that Timothy has just come from you back to us) **and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity,** (and has brought us the glad news of your faith and love) **and that ye have good remembrance of us always,** (and that you have affectionate recollection of us at all times) **desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:** (longing to see us just as we also long to see you)

**3:7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:**

**3:7 Therefore, brethren,** (for this reason, brothers) **we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:** (in all our distress and affliction, we were comforted about you, through the evidence of your faith)

**3:8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.**

**3:8 For now we live,** (for now we really live)  **if ye stand fast in the Lord.** (since you firmly believe in the Lord and stand fast and keep on taking a firm position.)

**3:9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;**

**3:9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you,** (For what sufficient thanksgiving can we offer to God concerning you - there is none that could be sufficient.) **for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;** (for all the joy by means of which we rejoice on account of you in the presence of our God.)

**3:10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?**

**3:10 Night and day praying exceedingly** (By night and by day, praying with intense earnestness) **that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?** (that we might see you and might supply the deficiencies of your faith.) Continued…

\_\_Day 13 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3:11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.**

**3:11 Now God himself and our Father,** (Now may he, our God and Father - or May God Himself, even our Father) **and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.** (direct our way back to see you. When God directs their way, Satan cannot hold them back.)

**3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:**

**3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another,** (And may the Lord cause you to overflow and abound full in love to each other) **and toward all men, even as we do toward you:**

**3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.**

**3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father,** (In order that the Lord may strengthen your hearts {the spring and seat of holiness} so that they may be blameless in holiness in the presence of our God and Father - who cannot be deceived) **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.** (at Christ’s return with all the redeemed - those who come with him from heaven and those called up to meet him in the air at his return.)

**Food for thought:** “Finally we believe, according to the Word of God, when the time appointed by the Lord (which is unknown to all creatures) is come, and the number of the elect complete, that our Lord Jesus Christ will come from heaven, corporally and visibly, as he ascended, with great glory and majesty to declare himself judge of the quick and the dead; burning this old world with fire and flame, to cleanse it. And then all men will personally appear before this great judge, both men and women and children, that have been from the beginning of the world to the end thereof, being summoned by the voice of the archangel, and by the sound of the trumpet of God. For all the dead shall be raised out of the earth, and their souls joined and united with their proper bodies, in which they formerly lived.

As for those who shall then be living, they shall not die as the others, but be changed in the twinkling of an eye, and from corruptible, become incorruptible. Then the books (that is to say the consciences) shall be opened, and the dead judged according to what they shall have done in this world, whether it be good or evil. Nay, all men shall give an account of every idle word they have spoken, which the world only counts amusement and jest: and then the secrets and hypocrisy of men shall be disclosed and laid open before all. And therefore the consideration of this judgment, is justly terrible and dreadful to the wicked and ungodly, but most desirable and comfortable to the righteous and elect because then their full deliverance shall be perfected, and there they shall receive the fruits of their labor and trouble which they have borne… And for a gracious reward, the Lord will cause them to possess such a glory, as never entered into the heart of man to conceive. Therefore, we expect that great day with a most ardent desire to the end that we may fully enjoy the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Rev. 22:20.”

Parts of the Belgic Confession (Confession of Faith) article 37

**The final judgment hangs on election - wherever you find true comfort you will find election.**

**What comfort is it to you that Christ shall come again to judge?**

**I know the Judge so the judge holds no terror for me.**

from notes taken at Prof. Engelsma’s lectures on Eschatology