

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

First RPC Durham

I. The comfort of one another's perseverance (vv 6-8)**A. Timothy's return and report**

- 1) *Good news*
- 2) *Faith* (1 Thes 1:8b)
- 3) *Love*
 - a) For one another (1 Thes 4:9)
 - b) For Paul, Silas and Timothy — Seen in two ways:
 - i. *That you always have good remembrance of us* (1 Thes 1:2-3; Heb 13:7)
 - ii. *Desiring to see us, as we also to see you* (1 Thes 2:17)
 - iii. *Use, The importance of setting a good example.*

B. The comfort of one another's perseverance

- 1) When — *In all our affliction and distress* (1 Thes 3:5)
- 2) The greatest encouragement — *Now we live if you stand fast*
- 3) Why is one another's perseverance a comfort?
 - a) Casting our mind upon the Lord
 - i. It reminds us of God's faithfulness
 - ii. It reminds us of God's sovereignty
 - iii. It reminds us of the Father's care to provide nourishment for His children
 - iv. The efficacy of the Son's blood to justify and sanctify (1 Jn 5:8)
 - v. The evidence of the Spirit's work in our lives (Eph 1:13-14)
 - b) Considering ourselves rightly and making application
 - i. Makes us humble and thankful in reflecting how the Lord has grown us
 - ii. Strengthens the members of the Church in the present, knowing that the body as a whole is strong.
 - iii. Gives hope and example for us and others for future

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Do you delight in good news or in other's downfall?
- 2) Are you known for your faith and love?
- 3) Do you have an interest in other's perseverance?

II. Earnestness before the Lord for the perseverance of the saints (vv 9-10)**A. Great thanksgiving — For what thanks can we render to God for you****B. Great joy — For all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before God (Psa 32:11)**

- 1) *Use, The need for self-examination in prayer.*
- 2) *Use, We are to have joy in the Lord*
 - a) Which is a fitting response to the Word of God (1 Jn 1:4)
 - b) Which is a fitting response to union with Christ (Zeph 3:17)
 - c) Which is particularly fitting for the Lord's Day (Psa 118:24)

C. Great consistency — *night and day* (Lk 18:1-8)**D. Great earnestness (Psa 37:4; 1 Thes 2:18; 1 Sam 1:10, 15)****E. Regarding the Doctrine of Prayer**

- 1) Importance of prayer (Jms 4:2b-3).
- 2) Sweetness of prayer: (Esther 5:1-3)
- 3) The fellowship of the saints in prayer (Acts 2:42, 46)

F. Uses from the Text

- 1) Self-Examination
- 2) Attentiveness and participation in corporate prayer
 - a) During worship (*Heidelberg Catechism 129*)
 - b) During prayer meetings (Acts 1:14)

III. Seeking the Lord's blessing for the saints' pursuit of holiness (vv 11-13)**A. The content of this prayer:**

- 1) To be able to go back to Thessalonica
- 2) Love
 - a) Its Definition (1 Jn 4:10)
 - b) Its Description
 - i. Definitive characteristic of the Church (Jn 13:35)
 - ii. Fulfillment of the whole Law (Rom 13:10)
 - iii. Purpose of the Law (1 Tim 1:5, NKJV)
 - iv. Response of gratitude to the Gospel
 - c) The extent of love — *Increase and abound* (Psa 36:4a, NASB).
 - d) The recipients of love — *To one another and to all* (Lk 2:14).
 - e) The example of faithful elders — *Just as we do to you*
- 3) Establish the saints
 - a) To make us blameless in conscience
 - b) To make us holy in our application
 - c) To persevere us to the very end (Psa 17:15, 16:11)

B. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to pray these things.
- 2) We are to pursue these as well (Jn 17:17).