



Anchored

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

1 Thessalonians 3:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—

- This is the report that Paul was waiting for. Paul writes the letter to the church as soon as Timothy returns.
- They remembered Paul fondly; they had affection for the church, for their leaders. Their scope of church went beyond their walls.
- It was a good report
 - Faith was good. Deep roots, not swayed.
 - Love was good. For God, for each other.

1 Thessalonians 3:7-8 for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. 8 For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.

- Paul said last week the church was his “glory and joy.” You can almost hear Paul sigh with relief.
- Honestly...do you feel that way about the church? About your brothers and sisters? That you would be so moved, in anguish, over their souls...that you would do hard things? (Paul sent Timothy) That you DO hard things? (Vacation, free time, money, retirement)
- The missionaries were suffering, just like the church.
- What does “standing in the Lord” mean?

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Hope in something coming. Something that is certain.
- Not certainty about that job interview, that healing, that you'll get that house, that the court ruling will go your way, that the lump is benign, that
- It's faith that "he who promised is faithful." It's faith in Jesus, no matter what happens.
- Hope and certainty in something that is coming...the Day is drawing near.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- It's counting on EVERYTHING that God has promised. When He says he'll provide in the desert, it's trusting. When he says all that call on him will not be put to shame, it's believing.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, 10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

- Paul always gives thanks where it is due. To God.
- Paul loves people. Prays for them.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, 12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- Paul still wants to visit. He's not satisfied with their love yet!

The Thessalonians got a good report. What type of report would Logos get?

- What kind of report would Timothy bring back about Logos?
- Not the silly stuff we use to judge churches on today--worship style, dress, programs, chairs, drive distance, pastor's wife...How would Timothy report our faith and love?