

BEING WITH CHRIST AT HIS COMING

Introduction: In 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 Paul explains to the church that his failure to return to them was not from a lack of love for them or from having no concern for their welfare. He, in fact, expresses his strong longing to return to them, but every attempt he made was thwarted by Satan. In chapter three we read that Paul finally resorted to sending Timothy in his place. Timothy was to encourage and establish them in their faith. After a short while Timothy returned to Paul in Corinth with good news (this is the only place in all of Paul's writings where he used the Greek word for "gospel" in any other sense than the good news of God's saving grace). This good news from Timothy greatly relieved Paul. He took this occasion to write this letter to these believers to express his joy and thanksgiving to God concerning their steadfast faith. He ended this chapter with a prayer that "their hearts would be established in holiness at the coming of Jesus with all His saints."

Lesson Aim: Be established in holiness at the coming of Jesus with all His saints..

Memory Verse: Be established "in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thes 3:13).

Lesson Outline and Questions to Answer**I. Paul's Decision to Send Timothy – 3:1-5**

1. What experiences should not be allowed to destroy our faith? 3:3-4
2. Why did Paul send Timothy to Thessalonica? 3:2, 5

II. Paul's Delight in Timothy's Report – 3:6-10

3. How did Paul react to Timothy's report? 3:7-10
 - 3:7 -
 - 3:8 -
 - 3:9 -
 - 3:10 -

III. Paul's Desire for the Believers – 3:11-13

4. To whom did Paul direct his prayer? 3:11
5. What did Paul ask God to do for him? 3:11
6. What did Paul ask God to do for the Thessalonian church? 3:12
7. What was the second request that Paul made for the Thessalonian church? 3:13
8. Will believers have a body on the very day they die? 2 Cor 5: 1-3; Mt 17:1-4; Rev 7:13-15
9. What are the two times Christ will come back to earth in the future?
 - 1 Thes 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-54 -
 - Rev 19:11-16 -
10. What coming of Jesus do you think Paul is talking about in 1 Thes 3:13?
11. Who do you think is coming with Jesus?
12. Why are they coming with Jesus?