

1 Thessalonians 3

Notes for lesson 7

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1 Review of 1 Thess, basic themes

- 1 Thess 1: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy brought the gospel to the Thessalonians, who received it in word, power, Holy Spirit, and full conviction. They became imitators of Paul, S. and T., and of the Lord, recvd the gospel in tribulation yet with joy of the Holy Spirit, gospel sounded forth to Macedonia and Achaia. turned from idolatry, to the living God
- 1 Thess 2: Key theme: we brought you the gospel, in truth and love, like a mother/father, not in error or deceit, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of God. You became imitators.
- 1 Thess 2: the gospel
 - Why? Paul gave it; he was compelled, entrusted by God
 - What? by it we're saved; hold fast Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, buried, raised on the 3rd day, according to the Scriptures, appeared to many
 - How do we share it? Mars Hill vs Jerusalem. impart information, compare / contrast / confront the culture.
 - Who? Us. imitators of Paul, and the Lord
 - When? Now.
 - Where? Where the Lord leads, like Paul being led into Macedonia.
- 1 Thessalonians 3 : Prayer and Follow-up
 - Timothy sent to encourage them, brought back a good report: standing firm (1 Thess 3:8)
 - don't be surprise by afflictions, temptation
 - Paul desires to see them to complete what is lacking in their faith; excel still more, to be established blameless at His coming

1.1 Review: The Follow Up

- with the Corinthians (1 Cor 3:5-10). 1 Cor 3 and 4: Paul planted, others build on it, but God causes the growth. Paul sent Timothy to them but in this case got back a mixed report. contrast w/Thessalonika: some are arrogant, need correction and reproof
- with the Thessalonians
 - * does: sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them, prayed for them
 - * concerns: disturbed by afflictions, temptation
 - * wants: to complete what is lacking in their faith
- What is lacking in their faith?
 - * excel still more
 - * continue to love one another
 - * work hard
 - * do not fear death
 - * do not commit sexual immorality
 - * many instructions in latter part of 1 Thess 5
 - * Paul taught them
 - * Paul did not have to reprove them (but he did so to Corinthians): point out what is wrong
 - * Paul pointed out the correct things to do (correction)
 - * Paul trained them (discipline): work of faith, labor of love. Work hard.

1.2 Review: Paul's Prayer, 1 Thess 3:9-13 and other Scripture

- v9: joy
- v10-11: to see them soon and complete what is lacking (near future)
- v12: to increase in love (near and far future)
- v13: be established blameless at His coming (very very far future)
- 5:16-18: pray constantly
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1.3 Review: Cross-references on prayer

- God does not listen to the prayers of the wicked (John 9:31, Prov 15:8, 28:9, Isaiah 59:1-2), but
- delights in the prayer of the upright (John 9:31).
- We pray in the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26, Eph 6:18-19). Compare with 1 Thess 5:16-19.

- We do not have because we do not ask (James 4:1-3)
- pray for one another (James 5:16)
- prayer is powerful (James 5:16)
- If we ask anything *in His will*, He hears us (1 John 5:14-15)
- persevere in prayer (Luke 18:1)
- do not be anxious (Phil 4:6), but pray
- Mt 6:10, John 14:13-15: Jesus taught us to pray simply and directly that the Father's will be done. What we ask will be done if we pray according to God's will.

2 Lesson 7: the person of Satan

Paul warns us to stand firm against Satan. So does Jesus. We must not be caught off guard. He can deceive, and can tempt even a Christian. We must stand firm, and overcome. God equipped us to do that.

3 The names of Satan

- the tempter
 - (1 Thess 3:5) 5 For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.
- the devil
 - (Mt 4:1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- Rev 12:9. the great dragon, serpent of old, devil, Satan
 - And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- Eph 2:1-2. prince of the power of the air, a spirit
 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
- 2 Cor 4:4: god of this world (idol), in contrast to Christ, the image of God
 - in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

4 Satan's beginning

- Ez 28:1-19

The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord God,

Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods In the heart of the seas'; Yet you are a man and not God, Although you make your heart like the heart of God – 3 Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; There is no secret that is a match for you. 4 By your wisdom and understanding You have acquired riches for yourself And have acquired gold and silver for your treasures. 5 xBy your great wisdom, by your trade You have increased your riches And your heart is lifted up because of your riches – 6 Therefore thus says the Lord God,

Because you have made your heart Like the heart of God, 7 Therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, The most ruthless of the nations. And they will draw their swords Against the beauty of your wisdom And defile your splendor. 8 They will bring you down to the pit, And you will die the death of those who are slain In the heart of the seas. 9 Will you still say, "I am a god," In the presence of your slayer, Though you are a man and not God, In the hands of those who wound you? 10 'You will die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of strangers, For I have spoken!' declares the Lord God!

11 Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God,

You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. 18 By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.

19 All who know you among the peoples
Are appalled at you; You have become terrified
And you will cease to be forever.

created as an annointed cherub

perfect, seal of beauty, wisdom, blameless, in Eden and on the mtn of God.

sinned, filled with violence

proud of his beauty – thus cast down

wisdom corrupted

turned to ashes on the earth. Compare with Revelation (tossed into the lake of fire)

5 Satan's end

- Ezekiel 28 (see above), and Revelation 20: he will cease, be destroyed, consumed by the lake of fire, tormented day and night forever.

6 Satan's character and tactics

6.1 Satan's character/tactics with unbelievers

- John 8:44: father of unbelievers, murderer, no truth, when he lies he speaks his native language

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- takes away the word of God, Mk 4:15 (sower and seed parable)

These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

- god of this world blinded their minds, 2 Cor 4:4 (below). Also 1 John 4:4 (he that is in the world).

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- led by Satan, Eph 2:1-3. Walking to the world standard

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

6.2 Satan's character/tactics with believers

- hindered Paul from seeing the Thessalonians (1 Thess 2:18).
- temptation (1 Thess 3:5)
- temptation of Jesus (see next section)
- husbands and wives (1 Cor 7:3-5)

3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- if we dwell in anger (Eph 4)

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

- deception of false teaching (Genesis 3, temptation of Eve). "Did God really say ...?" Like the sign I saw on campus, from a cult ("What does the Bible REALLY say?").
- False teaching from false apostles (2 Cor 11:13-15)

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

- lies and greed (Ananias and Safira, Acts 5:3)
- Suffering and persecution (1 Peter 5). See also Revelation

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- sickness (Job, Paul's thorn in the flesh). Both were permitted by God.

6.3 Satan's character/tactics when he tempted Jesus

- 1st temptation. The Spirit led Jesus to be tempted. **IF You are the Son of God ...** Satan questions Jesus' identity. Jesus answers with Scripture. The Father did not end the test.

(Mt 4:1-4) 4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.' "

- 2nd temptation. Satan questions Jesus' identity, and then misquotes Scripture. Jesus again answers with Scripture. The Father did not end the test.

(Mt 4:1-7) 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.' " 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

- 3rd temptation. Satan does not quote Scripture, offers Him the most he can. Jesus again answers with Scripture, but also commands Satan to leave. The Father ended the test and sent His angels to minister to Him. The testing is over; Jesus has conquered.

(Mt 4:8-11) 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship

me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, ” Go, Satan! For it is written, ’You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’ ” 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

7 Christians’s power over Satan

- Paul was given the charge to go to the Gentiles, to open their eyes (see 2 Cor 4:4) so that they may turn (repent) and be forgiven.

14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ’Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 And I said, ’Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ’I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

- (1 John 4:4, 5:4-5). We overcome

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. 5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error

- Eph 1. Christ has conquered (compare with 3rd temptation)

19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His

might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

- Eph 6. Stand firm. (histemi). Also used in a legal sense.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

- James 4:7. Resist. antihistemi, literally 'anti-stand-firm', or 'stand firm against'. Satan will not stand firm but will be tossed in the lake of fire. He will flee (run away to safety)

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- We overcome! (overcome = nike, conquer)

Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. 12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.

- we are hyper-conquers (hyper-nikeo). Romans 8:35-39. Note that we are not promised a long or easy life. We might die, or face famine, peril, sword ... But in all that, we hyper-conquer through Him who loved us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.