

Lacking In Your Faith

1 Thessalonians 3:1-10

Background

- Paul travels to THESSALONICA. Acts 17:1-15
 - Some believe him. (Greeks and chief women). Acts 17:4
 - Adverse reaction to Paul's preaching. Acts 17:5-9

Background

- Accusation:
 - Preaching against Caesar, declaring another king. Acts 17:7
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, *"Ye know how we (dealt with) each one of you, as a father with his own children, exhorting you, and encouraging (you), and testifying, to the end that ye should walk worthily of God, who calleth you into his own kingdom and glory."*

Background

- Paul and Silas flee to BEROEA. Acts 17:10
 - Silas and Timothy left behind in Beroea. Acts 17:14
- Soon leaves Beroea because of the Jews from Thessalonians Acts 17:10-14; cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:14-15
- Paul goes to ATHENS. Acts 17:15
 - Timothy joins Paul in Athens and is sent back to Thessalonica 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 5
 - Timothy to *"establish you and comfort you concerning your faith"* 1 Thessalonians 3:2

Background

- Paul travels to CORINTH. Acts 18:1
 - Timothy joins Paul – reports GOOD news
 - Good news of faith and love. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10, *"Joy"*
- cf. Proverbs 25:25, *"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."*

Background

- The relationship between Paul and the Thessalonians is considered under three headings:
 - (1) The Thessalonians' reception of the gospel as God's message. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
 - (2) The strong opposition brought on by the message which they had received. (1 Thessalonians 2:14-16)
 - (3) The prolonged separation of Paul from the Thessalonians because of the hindrance of Satan (1 Thessalonians 2:17-20).

Background

- This same theme continues in 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10
Here we learn how:
 - (1) Their need had been met by the coming of Timothy.
1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
 - (2) Paul's need had also been met by Timothy's
encouraging report. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Background

- Timothy joins Paul – reports BAD news.

Continued problems:

- Immoral practices. 1 Thessalonians 4:3ff
- Idleness. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12;
cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11, "If any will not work, neither let him eat"
- Error about the second coming.
1 Thessalonians 4:13ff; cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:1ff

Background

- Paul's desire to come to them.
- **"See your face."**
1 Thessalonians 3:6, 10
- **"Perfect that which is lacking in your faith."**

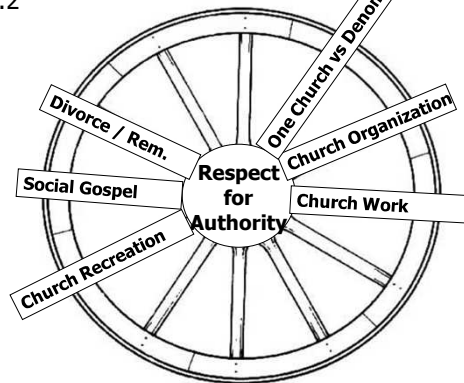
"Perfect What Is Lacking"

- **"Perfect"** – *katartizo* – "to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust" (Strong)
- **"Lacking"** – *husterema* – "deficit; specifically, poverty" (Strong)

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- **A valid basis.** Acts 17:2ff, 11
 - Jesus is the Christ. cf. John 20:30-31
 - Resurrection. 1 Corinthians. 15:12-17
- Many things taught with no valid basis ...
 - Christ the author of denominationalism.
cf. Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 14:33; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4
 - Salvation by faith only. cf. James 2:24
 - Sprinkling for baptism. cf. Romans 6:3-4
- God's word is the only valid basis for faith. Romans 10:17

Valid Basis ... "reasoned from the Scriptures" Acts 17:2



Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Zeal. Not lacking in Thessalonica.

- Not lacking in the faith of the Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- They were examples to others. 1 Thessalonians. 1:7
- Were busy sounding out the word. 1 Thessalonians 1:8
- Faith growing and abounding. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Steadfastness. Not lacking in Thessalonica.

- Thessalonians needed steadfastness. **1 Thessalonians 3:8**, "*We live, if ye stand fast in the Lord*"
- Suffered persecution. 1 Thessalonians 2:14; 3:1-4

**Is your faith lacking steadfastness?
cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58**

Lacking In Your Faith

(Part 2)

1 Thessalonians 3:1-10

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Growth.

- Paul thankful for the growth of the faith of the Thessalonians. 2 Thessalonians 1:3; cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:5-7

Trials and temptations draw upon our faith and unless we make deposits, our faith will become bankrupt!

**Is your faith lacking growth?
cf. 2 Peter 1:5-3:18**

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Right Motive.

- cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8
- Wrong Motives. (cf. Matthew 6:1-5; John 6:26)
- Popularity. John 12:42-43

**What motivates you?
1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Obedience. Acts 17:4

"Turned unto God from idols."

1 Thessalonians 1:9; cf. Acts 19:19

- Faith without works is dead. James 2:17,20,26
- Works makes faith perfect or complete. James 2:22
- Obedience necessary. Hebrews 5:8-9

**Is your faith lacking in obedience?
Matthew 7:21**

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- A valid basis.
- Growth.
- Zeal.
- Right Motive.
- Steadfastness.
- Obedience.

Paul prayed night and day that *"we may see your face, and may perfect that which is lacking in your faith."* 1 Thessalonians 3:10