***Lesson Twelve***

**1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

**Paul’s Boat Develops a Leak**

**1.** In v. 1-2 what does Paul say are the two reasons he is sending Timothy back to Thessalonica?

**2.** In v. 1-2a Paul states his personal concern for the Thessalonian believers with the statement . . .

***1 therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy . . . .*** In the phrase ***we could endure it no longer***, what does the term ***endure*** (*stegō*—#4722) mean? What meaning does the use of ***endure*** have here in this passage?

**3.** What is the significance of Paul’s statement in v. 1 that ***we thought it best to be left behind in Athens***? (see Acts 17:14-15)

**4.**. Paul’s second reason for sending Timothy, as stated in v. 2-3 . . . ***2 we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, 3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions***. What does this statement reveal about Paul and the condition of the Thessalonian church?

**5.** In v. 3, when Paul states his concern that ***no one would be disturbed by these afflictions***, what picture is conveyed by his use of the term ***disturbed*** (*sainō*—#4525)? Why would Paul be worried that the Thessalonians were being ***disturbed by their afflictions***? (see Ephesians 4:4)

**6.** In v. 3 Paul then teaches us an important point regarding our trials and afflctions . . . ***for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.*** What does the word ***destined*** (*keimai*—#2749) mean? In regard to the will of God, what is the significance of this statement that **we have been *destined* for *afflictions***?

**7.** In v. 4 Paul gives the Thessalonians a statement of reminder regarding Christian suffering and affliction . . . ***for indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.*** What does this statement teach us in regard to living the Christian life?

**8.** As you read v. 3-4, what does this teach us about how we are to present the gospel to unbelievers and new converts? In other words, as part of the presentation of the gospel, should we tell unbelievers that they will suffer for the name of Christ? Should we wait until they become believers to break this “bad news” to them? Explain.

**9.** In reading v. 4, is Paul saying that all Christians will suffer affliction? Explain.

**10.** In v. 5 Paul expresses his fear that some of the Thessalonians may have succumbed to the suffering and persecution and fallen away from the faith. Is this possible? Is it possible for someone to have faith, and yet fall away from Christ? (see Matthew 13:3-9)

**11.** What has this passage taught you about Paul and his feelings toward the Thessalonian believers?