***Lesson Thirteen***

**1 Thessalonians 3:6-10**

**The Effect of Timothy’s Report on Paul**

**1.** With the return of Timothy from Thessalonica, Paul composes this first letter to the Thessalonians. In v. 6 Paul begins, ***but now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us . . . .*** In the opening phrase, the literally meaning of the Greek word *arti* means ***“just now,”*** rendering the opening phrase, ***but just now Timothy has come to us from you . . . .*** What does this phrase, ***just now***, teach us about the sense of urgency of Paul’s letter?

**2.** In v. 6, what sort of emotion does Paul convey to his Thessalonian readers? Why does he react to Timothy’s report in this way?

**3.** In the second part of v. 6, in the phrase ***that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you***, the term ***longing/long*** is the Greek word *epipotheō* (#1971). What is the definition of this word and what degree of emotion is conveyed by Paul’s use of it? What is significant about Paul’s description that the Thessalonians were ***longing*** to see him and he felt likewise?

**4.** To understand the degree of stress and discouragement Paul was under at the time, examine Acts 18:1-5. What does this reveal about Paul’s attitude prior to the arrival of Timothy with his report on the condition of the Thessalonian church?

**5.** Following the arrival of Timothy with news from Thessalonica, we see Paul’s reaction in v. 7 . . . ***for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith***. What is Paul saying here?

**6.** To his statement in v. 7, Paul then adds in v. 8 . . . ***for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.*** What does Paul mean by this statement?

**7.** Michael Sadler, a 19th century scholar, states that *“the success of the cause of Christ, that is, the winning of souls to Him, and the continuance of such souls in Him, was Paul’s very life.”* In fact, D. Edmond Hiebert states that the strain and sense of dread Paul felt in regard to the health and faith of the Thessalonian church was so powerful that *“had the Thessalonians apostatized, it would have been a veritable deathblow to Paul.”* With these two statements in mind, why was Timothy’s news of the health of the Thessalonian church so significant to Paul?

**8.** In v. 9 Paul expresses his personal gratitude to God for His protection of the Thessalonians . . . ***For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account.*** What is Paul saying in this statement?

**9.** In v. 10 Paul concludes this paragraph . . . ***as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?*** In describing his prayers as being ***most earnestly*** (Gr. *huperekperissou*—#4057), what meaning does Paul’s use of this word convey?

**10.** In v. 10 Paul says that he is praying for two specific things. What are these two specific requests and what is the significance of each?