***Lesson Fourteen***

**1 Thessalonians 3:11-13**

**Love One Another & All People**

**1.** The use of **optative mood** verbs is not common in the New Testament. The optative mood is used to express hopefulness, but not certainty. Here in v. 11-13 Paul uses **three optative mood verbs**. Paul states in v. 11, ***may*** **God *direct our way to you***. Then in v. 12 Paul uses 2 more optative mood verbs when he says, ***may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love.*** What does Paul’s use of optative verbs in this passage signify?

**2.** In v. 11 Paul expresses his desire for himself . . . ***Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you***. The phrase ***direct our way*** literally means **“fully straighten the road.”** What is the significance of this phrase in regard to Paul’s desire to return to Thessalonica?

**3.** Examine Ecclesiastes 7:13 (KJV) . . . ***Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?*** What is the significance of this verse in regard to the sovereign will of God?

**4.** In v. 12 Paul expresses his prayer-wish for the Thessalonians . . . ***and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you.*** What do the terms ***increase*** (*pleonazō—*#4121) and ***abound*** (*perisseuō—*#4052) mean? What does Paul mean by his use of these terms in this verse?

**5.** In v. 12 who is it that Paul explicitly desires for the Thessalonians to ***increase and abound in love*** for? What is significant about this wish?

**6.** What is the biblical definition of ***love*** (*agapē*—#26)? How does the biblical definition of ***love*** differ from the secular definition? Why is this significant?

**7.** What other passages in Scripture teach this same theme of **loving all people**?

**8.** Why is it so important to ***love*** ***all people***? After all, it’s difficult to love someone who hates you and persecutes you. Why should be love them?

**9.** In v. 13 Paul expresses the desired result of his prayer-wish . . . ***so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.*** What does the word ***establish*** (*stērizō—*#4741) mean?

**10.** What is it that Paul wishes to be ***established*** in the Thessalonians? Why is this significant?

**11.** Paul refers to the future event of ***the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints***. What will occur at ***the coming of the Lord*** in relation to Christians being ***established in their hearts, without blame in holiness***? How is it possible for a Christian to be ***without blame in holiness***?