**FAITH DON’T FAIL ME NOW!**

**I Thessalonians 3:7**

**(Read v. 1-7)**

**INTRODUCTION**

I Thessalonians 3:7 is embedded in discussion that is noteworthy in part because of Paul’s great feelings for the people of God in Thessalonica. It is the type of charity that is both notable, as well as, reciprocated towards Paul from the Saints. To appreciate the points of FAITH DON’T FAIL ME NOW, I believe it to be necessary to understand the conditions that would be such that there is need on Paul’s part as well as ours to be undergirded by our faith! (Paul sends Timothy to establish – strengthen or encourage those that he loved! I **Thessalonians 3:2**)

**BODY OF LESSON**

I. Tough times can be alone time (**I Thessalonians 3:1**)

 A. Things got so tough for Paul that there would be time that he wanted some time alone (**I Thess. 3:1**)

 1. Remember our Savior spent time alone in prayer (**Matthew 14:23**).

 2. A good way to mature in our problems may be in helping otherswith their problems (**I Thess. 3:2**).

II. Don’t be moved by the mess (**I Thess. 3:3**)

 Note – read v. 3 and explain terms from text.

 A. The Apostle Paul didn’t want the Thessalonians to be moved by the mess.

 (Mess = persecutions & afflictions)

 B. Appointed - means to be destined

 1. It is not if but when! (**Luke 17:1**)

 2. The unrighteous oft times resent the righteous! (See **II Timothy 3:1-15** & emphasize **v. 12-15**)

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III. There is No News like Good News! (**I Thessalonians 3:6-7**)

 (The Gospel is the Good News – “Glad Tidings” – **Luke 8:1**)

 A. The Thessalonians are doing well in faith & charity!

 1. Faith – Reference to their service to God.

 2. Charity – Love – As used here is the form of love that is manifested in service to the brethren.

 B. Paul’s challenges where not alleviated based on the behavior of the Thessalonians but their

 behavior did help Paul to be encouraged about his own labor difficulties (see I Thess. 3:7)

**1 Thessalonians 3:1-7 (KJV)**
**1**Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;
**2**And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:
**3**That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
**4**For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
**5**For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain.
**6**But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:
**7**Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

**Matthew 14:23 (KJV)**
23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

**Galatians 6:1 (KJV)**
1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

**Luke 17:1-2 (KJV)**
1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come!
2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

**2 Timothy 3:1-15 (KJV)**
1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.
9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.
10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.
12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;
15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 8:1 (KJV)**
1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve *were* with him,

**Romans 10:17 (KJV)**
17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.