

**ENCOURAGEMENT AT LAST (VV. 6–8)****1 THESSALONIANS 3:6 – BLACK**

- Timothy’s return brought Paul the reassurance he longed for.
- Report contained “good tidings” of their faith and love.
  - Despite persecution, they had not abandoned belief.
  - Their affection for Paul remained strong.
  - They desired to see him as much as he desired to see them.
- News was a great relief—Paul feared his labor might be in vain.
- **Word Study: “Good tidings” (εὐαγγελίζω / euangelizō)**
  - Root of English “evangelize,” “evangelical.”
  - Compound: EU (“good”) + ANGELLŌ (“announce, bring news”).
  - Basic meaning: “to announce good news.”
  - Related term: EUANGELION = “gospel.”
    - Old English GŌDSPEL (“good story/news”) → evolved into “gospel.”

**1 THESSALONIANS 3:7–8 – BLACK**

- Their perseverance gave Paul comfort in his own afflictions.
- “Now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.”
  - Their faith renewed his vitality.
  - Their perseverance confirmed his ministry was fruitful.
  - Their endurance proved God’s sustaining work and made his sacrifices worthwhile.

**PAUL’S THANKSGIVING AND DESIRE FOR THEIR MATURITY (VV. 9–10)****1 THESSALONIANS 3:9 – BLACK**

- Paul shifts from relief to thanksgiving.
- Rhetorical question: what thanks could adequately express his joy before God?
- Joy rooted in their steadfast faith, not mere personal comfort.
- Thanksgiving is God-centered—overflowing into worship.

**1 THESSALONIANS 3:10 – BLACK**

- Constant prayer “night and day” for reunion with them.
- Desire: to “perfect that which is lacking” in their faith.
  - Greek KATARTIZŌ = to complete, arrange, shape into final form.
  - Not merely adding knowledge, but shaping into a finished work.
- Goal: Thessalonians become spiritually well-formed—
  - Grounded in doctrine
  - Steadfast in hope
  - Reflecting Christ’s character

**PAUL’S PRAYER FOR DIRECTION (V. 11)****1 THESSALONIANS 3:11 – BLACK**

- Prayer moves from thanksgiving to petition.
- “God himself, even our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ” — emphasis on personal involvement.
  - Greek KAI = “even” (apposition, not addition).

- Father and Son joined as equal agents of divine guidance.
- Doctrinal weight:
  - Distinction yet harmony between Father and Son.
  - Prayer directed to both without contradiction.
- Consistent Pauline pattern:
  - **2 Thessalonians 2:16–17** – Father and Son comfort believers.
  - **Galatians 1:1** – Apostleship by Christ and the Father.
  - **Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3** – Grace and peace from both.
  - **2 Corinthians 13:14** – Father, Son, Spirit in blessing.

## PAUL’S PRAYER FOR GROWTH AND HOLINESS (VV. 12–13)

### 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 – BLACK

- Prayer: that the Lord cause their love to overflow.
- Scope:
  - Toward one another (within the church).
  - Toward all men (beyond the church).
- Love modeled after Paul’s own ministry among them.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 3:13 – BLACK

- Purpose: hearts established “unblameable in holiness.”
- Before “God, even our Father”—ultimate accountability.
- Fulfilled “at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
  - Refers to the Second Coming, not the rapture.
  - “Saints” best understood as covenant people of Israel, consistent with prophetic expectation.
    - **Zechariah 14:5** – Lord comes with saints.
    - **Deuteronomy 33:2** – Lord comes with ten thousands of saints.
    - **Jude 14** – Enoch’s prophecy of the Lord coming with saints.
- Transitional aspect of 1 Thessalonians:
  - Language consistent with kingdom hope for Jewish believers.
  - Prepares for later revelation of the Body of Christ’s distinct hope.