

Sermon Handout
May God Perfect Our Faith
I Thessalonians 3:1-13

- I. St. Paul sends Timothy to Thessalonica vv. 1-5
 - a. He could “no longer forbear” vv. 1, 5 *cf.* I Cor 9:12; 13:7
Note shift: “we” to “I” (the concern was very personal for Paul)
 - b. To establish them (in the faith) v. 2a
That they be not moved v. 3 *cf.* v. 5
Difficulties were predicted before Paul left them v. 4
 - c. To comfort them (in the faith) v. 2b
 - d. So that Paul could know their faith v. 5 (*see* Job 1:5)
- II. Timothy’s return to Athens vv. 6-10
 - a. News of faith, love, mutual affection v. 6
 - b. Paul & Silas are comforted, encouraged vv. 7-8 *cf.* II Cor 1:14
 - c. Rejoicing and praying for perfected faith vv. 9-10 *cf.* Eph 4:11-15
- III. Doxology and prayer for the saints vv. 11-13
 - a. Prayer for a reuniting presence v. 11
 - i. To be together with them
 - ii. To perfect their faith (*see* v. 10)
 - b. Prayer for increased love v. 12
 - i. Toward one another *cf.* I Jn 4:20-21; 5:2-1; Gal 6:2
 - ii. Toward all men *cf.* Gal 6:10
St. Paul (with Silas) is the exemplar
 - c. Statement of purpose – the end goal of ministry v. 13
Hearts established in holiness without blame *cf.* Heb 12:1
The church prepared for the consummation *cf.* Eph 6:25-27
Christ coming “with all his saints”

That their faith, love, hope be perfected (*see* 1:3)
A faith that *works*
A love that *labors*
A hope that *endures*