

**PAUL'S THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER EXPRESSED
(1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)**

IV. PAUL'S DESIRE TO ESTABLISH THE THESSALONIAN BELIEVERS (3:1-13)

A. The Sending of Timothy To Them (3:1-5)

1. Paul's **desire** in sending Timothy was two-fold:
 - a. To **establish** them, and...
 - b. To **encourage** them concerning their faith.
2. Paul's **reason** for sending Timothy to them was regarding their spiritual **growth** and **development**.

B. The Report from Timothy (3:6-8)

1. The **nature** of his report was **good news** to Paul & the team. (3:6a)
2. The **content** of this report concerned their on going **faith** (vertical) to God and **love** (horizontal) for others (3:6b)

*What does this tell you about the Thessalonians?

3. The **result** was that Paul's team was greatly **comforted** & **encouraged** by this report. (3:7-8)

C. The Response of Paul (3:9-13)

1. Paul _____ God for the Thessalonian Church and for the _____ that resulted from the report.(3:9)
- 2.The ultimate source of any steadfastness among people is always _____ & the effects of His life changing _____ in the hearts of those who hear it & respond by _____ to it.
3. Because of the joy and gratitude in his heart, Paul's attitude is expressed _____ through intercessory_____.

*What should this teach us? (3:9)

*What do we see expressed in Paul's prayers? (3:10a)

- a. Their prayers were _____.... "*praying*to God and our Father..."
- b. Their prayers were _____.... "*night and day*..."
- c. Their prayers were _____.... expressed by the word "*exceedingly*..."

4. What did Paul pray for?

- a. That God would permit Paul to personally see _____ .
(3:10b)

- b. That they could **see** them and _____ that which is _____
in their faith. (3:10c)

- c. That God would _____ their way to them by removing _____
that had _____ their coming & fellowship (3:11)

- d. That God's **love** would _____ and _____ and spill over
to one another. (3:12)

- e. That God would _____ their hearts _____ in
holiness practically before God the Father at the _____ of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (3:13)

- What did "blameless & holiness" look forward to at His coming?

What does all this mean to you?