

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5 — AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Homework for Session 5 — Jan 5, 2022

BY WAY OF REVIEW

1 Using only your Bible, write down what you have learned from 1 Thessalonians chapters 1-2. Scripture is powerful in its ability to transform. Give thought to what was particularly beneficial and timely to you. Be prepared to share one thing from these chapters that the Holy Spirit is using to strengthen you. Does something need to change in your life? What steps are you taking to do that?

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5 Unshakeable Faith in Suffering

2 Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 daily to prepare for your study. Looking at the whole, what are the main points of this chapter?

3 How does 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 connect with 3:1-5?

4 What explanation did Paul give for sending Timothy back to Thessalonica when he “could no longer endure it?” and what specific task was Timothy given (vv 1-5)?

5 Using Blue Letter Bible, define the words strengthen or establish (Strong's #4741) and encourage or exhort (Strong's #3870) from verse 3.

> Strong's #4741 strengthen/establish (Gk sterizo):

> Strong's #3870 encourage/exhort (Gk parakaleo):

6 Though the Thessalonians were genuine believers— having turned from idols to serve the living and true God— their faith needed to be strengthened and established. What can you learn about the process of strengthening and encouraging from the following verses?

> Acts 15:32; 16:4-5

> Romans 1:11-12; 16:25-27

> Ephesians 3:14-21

7 What are some specific ways you can strengthen and encourage others in their faith in the Lord Jesus?

8 Using Blue Letter Bible, define the word affliction (Strong's #2347). Then from verses 3-4, what do you learn about Paul's view of affliction in his life?

9 What kind of affliction did Paul suffer? See 2 Corinthians 11:23-29. Why did Paul say he was "destined" for affliction (v 3) and that he would suffer affliction (v 4)? How did Paul know that? See Acts 9:15-16.

10 In verse 3, the word translated "moved" or "disturbed" or "unsettled" means to shake back and forth, like a dog wagging its tail. How could "the tempter" (v 5) use the afflictions of Paul to shake the faith of the Thessalonian believers?

11 The Scriptures have much to teach us about enduring persecution for the sake of Jesus Christ. From the following verses, note the cause of the persecution and/or the encouragement in affliction and anything else you find interesting! I know there are a lot of verses here. I grouped them so it wouldn't feel quite so daunting. Still, this is merely a representation of the great body of knowledge on suffering from the Scripture. Persevere, friends!

> Matthew 5:10-12; 10:21-22, 24, 34-39; 24:9:

> Mark 10:29-30; Luke 6:22-23; 12:51-53; John 15:18-20; 16:2, 33:

> Acts 14:21-22; Romans 8: 35-39; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:12:

> 1 Peter 2:20-21; 3:14; 4:12-14; 5:9; 1 John 3:11-13:

12 In verse 5, Paul expresses his concern that his “labor would be in vain.” What does this mean?

13 The following references reveal how Paul regarded his work. What kind of attitudes and actions do you find? 1 Corinthians 15:10, 14, 58; 2 Corinthians 6:1; Philippians 2:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2?

14 Are there areas in your life in which Paul (or your pastor, or discipler, or someone who has built spiritual truths in your life) might say, “My labor has been in vain in him? If so, what are some steps you need to take to correct that area in your life?

15 What are some ways in which a spiritual leader’s labor has born fruit in your life?