

### **The Ambassador's Report (3:6-8)**

12. Timothy brought a good report of a \_\_\_\_\_ body of believers. Their steadfastness in the faith was \_\_\_\_\_ itself to Paul!

### **The Apostles' Response (3:9-13)**

13. Recognizing that it is the sovereign God who is at work in the Thessalonians, they respond with a prayer of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Conclusion**

14. We see in Paul a \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of God's sovereignty over his circumstances and his responsibility to make every effort to care for the Thessalonian believers.

*If we truly love God, believers and unbelievers we too will be motivated to make every effort to evangelize the lost, edify the saints, and engage in prayer—both for God to work through us and to offer our gratitude for what He does.*

## **PLANNING AND PRAYING**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:13**

#### **Introduction**

1. The passage before us is a centerpiece to the letter, full of the apostle's \_\_\_\_\_ for the Thessalonian believers.

*Paul assures the Thessalonians that he and Silas had yearned for a return visit to their city, but they had been prevented by Satan. Timothy's trip to Thessalonica accomplished what the apostles would have liked to have done. The news upon his return gives Paul and Silas much relief and leads them to pray even more for these disciples in tribulation.*

#### **The Apostles' Resolve (2:17-20)**

2. Paul reveals his pastoral heart with highly emotive words which flow out of his loving \_\_\_\_\_ with the Thessalonians.

3. These believers were the \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul's hope, joy, glory, and even boasting!

4. This loving pastoral relationship produced a \_\_\_\_\_ in the apostles to go to Thessalonica, and not just once, but time and again.

### **The Adversary's Rebuff (2:18b)**

5. The name "Satan" is a word taken directly from Hebrew, meaning "\_\_\_\_\_."

2 Corinthians 12:7; 11:14; 1 Timothy 5:15; 1 Corinthians 7:5;  
2 Thessalonians 2:9

Matthew 16:18; Acts 5:1-10; 2 Corinthians 2:1-11;  
Revelation 2:9; 3:9

6. God is sovereign over all things, including the \_\_\_\_\_ perpetrated by Satan!

Ephesians 6:10-18

7. God's sovereignty is such that He doesn't merely limit Satan's actions: God even uses Satan to \_\_\_\_\_ His purposes!

### **The Apostles' Recourse (3:1-5)**

Acts 16:1-3

8. The Thessalonians needed this ministry because they were already experiencing affliction, and they might be \_\_\_\_\_ from the faith.

Matthew 13:20-21

9. Such persecution doesn't happen by chance: "we have been \_\_\_\_\_ for this."

2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14

10. Satan's pressure to capitulate in the face of opposition is the lot of all \_\_\_\_\_!

11. Paul didn't just pray and hope for the best: he found a way to strengthen and \_\_\_\_\_ them.