

Lacking In Your Faith

1 Thessalonians 3:1–10

Background

- ▶ Paul travels to THESSALONICA. **Acts 17:1–15**
 - Some believe him. (Greeks and chief women). **Acts 17:4**
 - Adverse reaction to **Paul's preaching**. **Acts 17:5–9**

Background

- ▶ Accusation:
 - Preaching against Caesar, declaring another king. **Acts 17:7**

1 Thessalonians 2:11–12 "Ye know how we (dealt with) each one of you, as a father with his own children, exhorting you, and encouraging (you), and testifying, to the end that ye should walk worthily of God, who calleth you into his own kingdom and glory."

Background

- ▶ Paul & Silas flee to BEROEA. **Acts 17:10**
 - Silas & Timothy left behind in Beroea. **Acts 17:14**
- ▶ Soon leaves Beroea because of the Jews from Thessalonians **Acts 17:10–14** Persecution. **cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:14–15**
- ▶ Paul goes to ATHENS. **Acts 17:15**
 - Timothy joins Paul in Athens and is sent back to Thessalonians **1 Thessalonians 3:1,5**
 - Timothy to "establish you and comfort you concerning your faith" **1 Thessalonians 3:2**

Background

- ▶ Paul travels to CORINTH. **Acts 18:1**
- ▶ Timothy joins Paul – reports GOOD news

◦ Good news of faith and love.
1 Thessalonians 3:6–10 "Joy"

cf. Proverbs 25:25 "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

Background

- ▶ Timothy joins Paul – reports BAD news.

Continued problems:

- Immoral practices. **1 Thessalonians 4:3ff**
- Idleness. **1 Thessalonians 4:11–12**
cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10–11 "If any will not work, neither let him eat ..."
- Error about the 2nd coming. **1 Thessalonians 4:13ff**; **cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:1ff**

Background

- ▶ Paul's desire to come unto them.
 - "See your face." *1 Thessalonians 3:6, 10*
- ▶ **"Perfect that which is lacking in your faith."**

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"Perfect What Is Lacking"

- ▶ **"Perfect"** – katartizo – "to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust" (Strongs)
- ▶ **"Lacking"** – husterema – deficit; specifically, poverty: (Strongs)
 "that which is lacking' means that which Paul had not been able to impart to them, owing to the interruption of his spiritual instruction among them." (W.E. Vine)

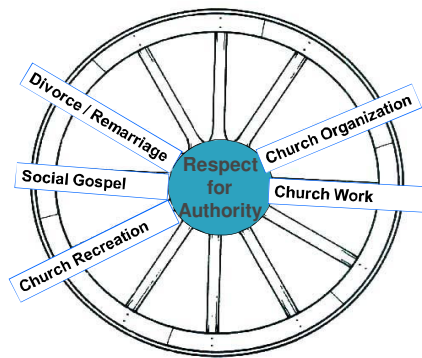
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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- ▶ **A valid basis.** *Acts 17:2ff, 11*
 Jesus is the Christ. *cf. John 20:30-31*
 Resurrection. *1 Corinthians 15:12-17*
- ▶ Many things taught with no valid basis ...
 - Christ the author of denominationalism. *cf. Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 14:33; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4*
 - Salvation by faith only. *cf. James 2:24*
 - Sprinkling for baptism. *cf. Romans 6:3-4*
- ▶ God's word only valid basis for faith.
Romans 10:17

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Valid Basis ... "reasoned from the Scriptures"



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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- ▶ **Zeal.**
 - Not lacking in the faith of the Thessalonians. *1 Thessalonians 1:3*
 - They were examples to others. *1 Thessalonians 1:7*
 - Were busy sounding out the word. *1 Thessalonians 1:8*
 - Faith growing and abounding. *2 Thessalonians 1:3*

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- ▶ **Zeal.**
 This could not be said of all.
 - Laodicea's faith lacked zeal. *Revelation 3:15-16*
 - The Hebrew's faith lacked zeal. *Hebrews 5:11ff; 10:32-12:12-13*

**What about your faith, is it lacking zeal?
 cf. Titus 2:14**

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

▶ **Steadfastness.**

Thessalonians needed steadfastness.

1 Thessalonians 3:8 "We live, if ye stand fast in the Lord"

- ▶ Suffered persecution. *1 Thessalonians 2:14; 3:1-4*

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

▶ **Steadfastness.**

- ▶ Exposed to the influence of false teachers. *2 Thessalonians 2:1-5*

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

▶ **Steadfastness.**

- ▶ Discouraged by unfaithful brethren. *2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11-13*
 - Be not weary in well doing.

Is your faith lacking steadfastness?
cf. *1 Corinthians 15:58*

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

▶ **Growth.**

- Paul thankful for the growth of the faith of the Thessalonians. *2 Thessalonians 1:3; cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:5-7*

Trials and temptations draw upon our faith and unless we make deposits, our faith will become bankrupt!

Is your faith lacking growth?
cf. *2 Peter 1:5 - 3:18*

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- ▶ **Right Motive.** cf. *1 Thessalonians 1:6-8*

- ▶ **Wrong Motives.** (cf. *Matthew 6:1-5; John 6:26*)

- Popularity. *John 12:42-43*
- To please others. *1 Thessalonians 2:3-6*

What motivates you?
1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- ▶ **Obedience.** *Acts 17:4*

"Turned unto God from idols."

1 Thessalonians 1:9; cf. Acts 19:19

- Faith without works is dead. *James 2:17,20,26*
- Works makes faith perfect or complete. *James 2:22*
- Obedience necessary. *Hebrews 5:8-9*

Is your faith lacking in obedience? *Matthew 7:21*

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Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

- ▶ A valid basis. ▶ Growth.
- ▶ Zeal. ▶ Right Motive.
- ▶ Steadfastness. ▶ Obedience.

Paul prayed night and day that *“we may see your face, and may perfect that which is lacking in your faith.”* 1 Thessalonians 3:10 18