

Lacking In Your Faith

(Part 1)

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 and Silas flee to BEROEA. Acts 17:10
 - Silas and Timothy left behind in Beroea. Acts 17:14
- Soon leaves Beroea because of the Jews from Thessalonians Acts 17:10-14; cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:14-15
- Paul goes to ATHENS. Acts 17:15
 - Timothy joins Paul in Athens and is sent back to Thessalonica 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 second coming. 1 Thessalonians 4:13ff; cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:1ff

Background

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

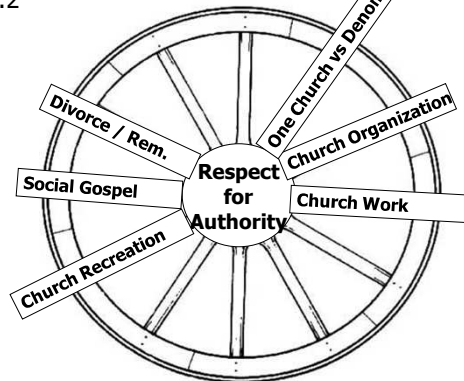
"Perfect What Is Lacking"

- **"Perfect"** – *katartizo* - "to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust" (Strong)
- **"Lacking"** – *husterema* – "deficit; specifically, poverty" (Strong)

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 is the only valid basis for faith. Romans 10:17

Valid Basis ... "reasoned from the Scriptures" Acts 17:2



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

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; 10:32ff; 12:12-13
- What about your faith, is it lacking zeal?
cf. Titus 2:14**

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

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

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Steadfastness.

- Exposed to the influence of false teachers.
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5
- Not determined by motive of teacher.
 - Motive wrong - Teaching right. **Philippians 1:15-18**
 - Motive right - Teaching wrong. **Galatians 1:13-14; Acts 23:1; 26:9**

Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking ...

• Steadfastness.

- Discouraged by unfaithful brethren.
2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11-13; Galatians 6:9;
Revelation 2:3
- Be not weary in well doing.

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