

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT-6

“Having the Courage to Encourage”

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Introduction _____

I. FIRST OF ALL, HE DISPATCHED A HELPER (1 Thessalonians 3:1-3).

- A. First, notice how he was to establish them in the *faith* (3:2b). “. . . *to establish . . . you concerning the faith.*”
- B. Secondly, note how he was to encourage them in their *frustration* (3:2-30).
- C. Thirdly, consider how he was to enlighten them concerning their *future* (3:3).

Nobody likes it when their “comfort zone” gets the “squeeze”; however, two important truths arise from these verses:

- 1. First, having unexpected trials as a Christian is *essential* not unfair.
- 2. Secondly, have unexpected hardships as soldiers in a battle is *expected* not unusual.

II. SECONDLY, HE _____ A LETTER (1 Thessalonians 3:4-8).

In examining these verses, note what Paul wrote about:

- A. First, note how he wrote about _____ (3:3-4)

- B. Secondly, notice how he wrote about _____ (3:5).

- C. Thirdly, note how he wrote about their _____ (3:6-8).

When Christians lose their way biblically and falter in the face of trials and adversity, three damaging responses occur:

- First, there is a _____ attitude
- Secondly, there is a _____ attitude.
- Thirdly, there is a _____ attitude.

These Thessalonian believers managed to keep the faith and were able to withstand falling prey to all three of these responses! HOW?

1. First, they _____ to blame their former authority for their sufferings (3:6).
2. Secondly, they _____ to maintain close fellowship with Paul and his companions (3:6b). “. . . *desiring greatly to see us . . .*”
3. Thirdly, they _____ a firm commitment to spiritual truth (3:7-8).

III. THIRDLY, HE _____ TO PRAY FOR THEM (3:9-13).

- A. First, he prayed that their faith might _____ (3:10).
- B. Secondly, he prayed that their love might _____ (3:12).
- C. Thirdly, he prayed that their lives would _____ (3:13).