

## LACKING IN YOUR FAITH

### 1 Thessalonians 3:7-10

#### Background

- ▣ Paul goes to **Thessalonica**. Acts 17:1-15
- ▣ Some believe him. (Greeks and chief women). Acts 17:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- ▣ Adverse reaction to Paul's preaching. Acts 17:5-9
- ▣ False accusations:
  - Preaching against Caesar. Acts 17:7
  - Declaring another king. Acts 17:7; cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:12

#### Background

- ▣ Paul & Silas flee to **Beroea**. Acts 17:10
  - Silas & Timothy left behind in Beroea. Acts 17:14
- ▣ Soon leave 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 Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 5
  - Timothy to *"establish you and comfort you..."* 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, 9 "Joy" - 3 John 4
- cf. Prov. 25:25 "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."*

#### Background

- ▣ Paul travels to **Corinth**. Acts 18:1
- ▣ Timothy joins Paul - reports bad news.
  - Continued problems immoral practices. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
  - Idleness. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
  - Error about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

#### Background

- ▣ Paul's desire to come to them. 1 Thessalonians 3:10
  - See your face. cf. Acts 20:38
  - *"Perfect that which is lacking in your faith."*
    - ▣ Spiritual babes. 1 Peter 2:2

## “Perfect What Is Lacking”

- “Perfect” – katartizo- to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust
- “Lacking” – husterema- (hoos-ter'-ay-maha) deficit; specifically, poverty

## Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking...

- **A valid basis.** 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**

## 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**; cf. **2 Corinthians 9:2**
  - 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**; **12:12-13**

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

## Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking...

- **Steadfastness.**
  - Paul had seen steadfastness of the Colossians. **Colossians 2:5**; cf. **1 Corinthians 15:58**
  - Thessalonians needed steadfastness. **1 Thessalonians 3:8**
    - Be not weary in well doing. **2 Thessalonians 3:13**
    - Suffered persecution. **1 Thessalonians 2:14**
    - Exposed to the influence of false teachers. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3**
    - Discouraged by unfaithful brethren. **2 Thessalonians 3:11-13**

**Is your faith lacking steadfastness?**  
cf. **Hebrews 10:36**

## 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**
  - “Abound in faith.” **2 Corinthians 8:7**
  - “Rich in faith.” **James 2:5**

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

**Is your faith lacking growth?**  
cf. **1 Timothy 4:6**

### Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking...

- Right Motive. cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:6,7,8
- Wrong Motives. (cf. Matthew 6:1-5; John 6:26)
  - Desire for material gain. Luke 12:13-21
  - Popularity. John 12:42-43
  - To please others. Matthew 10:37
  - Fear. cf. Hebrews 11:24-25

What prompts your faith to act? Is it love for God and a sincere desire to do his will? cf. Galatians 5:6

### Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking...

- Obedience. Acts 17:4
  - 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; Galatians 5:6

Is your faith lacking in obedience? Matthew 7:21

### Some Things That Faith May Be Lacking...

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

Are you willing to examine your faith and prefect what is lacking?