

# 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 <sup>13</sup> For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you  
2 received the word of God which you heard from us, you  
3 accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is,  
4 the word of God, which also performs its work in you who  
5 believe. <sup>14</sup> For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches  
6 of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured  
7 the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen,  
8 even as they *did* from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who both killed the Lord  
9 Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not  
10 pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, <sup>16</sup> hindering us from  
11 speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the  
12 result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But  
13 wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

14 <sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a  
15 short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager  
16 with great desire to see your face. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to  
17 you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.  
18 <sup>19</sup> For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not  
19 even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?  
20 <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

21 <sup>3:1</sup> Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought  
22 it best to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and we sent  
23 Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel  
24 of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,  
25 <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for  
26 you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. <sup>4</sup> For  
27 indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in  
28 advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came  
29 to pass, as you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could endure *it*  
30 no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that  
31 the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be  
32 in vain.

## **Observation (What does it say?):**

*Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?*

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Purpose or explanation?
- What encouragements does Paul list?
- What hindrances does Paul list?
- Other observations?

## **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- How does Paul see connections between different obstacles or hindrances? Or does he?
  - People
  - Satan
  - Circumstances
  - God's plan
- What are Paul's reactions to the various hindrances?
- What parts challenge your previous thinking?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

## **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What obstacles or hindrances are you facing in life and relationships?
- How important is it to define the exact source of hindrances or obstacles?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**