**“Ministry Ups and downs”**

**1 Thessalonians 3**

**Colossians**

**Titus**

**Timothy**

**Thessalonians**

**Philippians**

**Ephesians**

**Galatians**

**Corinthians**

**Romans**

**Philemon**

**Hebrews**

**James**

**Jude**

**John**

**Peter**

**Intro:**

Has there been a time in life where you couldn’t stand to be away from someone? What causes those emotions?

**Read verses 1-5**

1. In verse 2 Paul refers to Timothy as “God’s fellow worker.” God doesn’t use angels to spread the gospel, he does not promise he will come by direct revelation to spread his gospel; rather he uses you and me as his “fellow workers.” Why might God give such an important task to fickle people? (2 thoughts)
2. Greek lesson- Paul sites two purposes of Timothy spreading the Gospel to the Thessalonians- to *sterizo (*strengthen) and to *parakaleo* (encourage or – call to one’s side). In what ways do these two Greek words help form our understanding of encouragement?
3. Verse 3 said that the Thessalonians were destined for trials. Are we to expect trials? Why is this important for us to understand?
4. Verse 5 says, “our efforts might have been worthless.” Are our efforts in spreading the gospel worthless? Why/why not?
   * What lessons can we learn from this?
     + 1 Corinthians 15:58
     + Isaiah 55:11

**Read verses 6-10**

1. It was Paul’s preaching of the gospel that brought the persecution the Thessalonians were suffering, yet what kind of feelings did they have towards him? How is it that they can endure as they did?
   * Are there things which we will have to endure?
2. Verses 8-9 show a different side of ministry than what has been previously described. Why is it important to understand ministry work with both ends of the spectrum in mind?
3. Verse 10- Did the Thessalonians not have complete faith? Explain.

**“The Prayer” - verses 11-13**

1. In verse 12 Paul prays that love increase and overflow. What effect will that have in these situations
   * Dealing with a struggling brother/sister in Christ-
   * Being confronted by someone who opposes Christianity-
   * Meeting other members on Sunday-
   * Talking with a prospect-

***Takin’ it Home***

1. The devil hasn’t changed. In our day he continues to oppose the gospel. Persecution may not come as death/ imprisonment/ material loss, so what roadblocks does Satan throw at us?
2. How does chapter 3 bring you determination as you face the challenges of ministry?