

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing. In the top left, the lower legs and feet of two people are visible. In the top right, a man in a striped shirt and khaki pants is walking, looking down at his phone. In the middle left, a person in a light green shirt and dark pants is walking, carrying a white bag. In the middle right, a person in a black t-shirt and dark shorts is walking, carrying a brown bag. In the bottom left, a person in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking. In the bottom center, a person is walking with a black umbrella. In the bottom right, a person is walking with a blue patterned umbrella. The scene is brightly lit, casting distinct shadows of the pedestrians onto the white stripes of the crossing.

# LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Good Tidings of Great Joy”  
(Part 1)**

**I THESSALONIANS 3:6-10**

## **KEY POINT:**

**God deserves glory when there is measurable spiritual progression.**

- 1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)**
  - a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)

- To Corinth (I Cor 4:17; 16:10-11)
- To Philippi (Phil 2:19-24)
- To Ephesus (I Tim 1:3)
- To Thessalonica

**Paul Sent Timothy...**

*That is why I sent you Timothy,  
my beloved and faithful child in the  
Lord, to remind you of my ways in  
Christ, as I teach them everywhere  
in every church.*

**I Corinthians 4:17**

*10 When Timothy comes, see that you put  
him at ease among you,  
for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I  
am. 11 So let no one despise him.  
Help him on his way in peace,  
that he may return to me,  
for I am expecting him with the brothers.*

**I Corinthians 16:10-11**

*19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.*

**Philippians 2:19-21**



*22 But you know Timothy's proven worth,  
how as a son with a father he has served  
with me in the gospel.*

*23 I hope therefore to send him just as  
soon as I see how it will go with me, |*

*24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I  
myself will come also.*

**Philippians 2:22-24**

*As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,*

**I Timothy 1:3**



# Paul's Trip from Corinth to Thessalonica

*When you come,  
bring the cloak that I left with  
Carpus at Troas, also the books,  
and above all the parchments.*

**II Timothy 4:13**

*Like cold water to a thirsty soul,  
so is good news from a far country.*

**Proverbs 25:25**

*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace,  
who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*

**Isaiah 52:7**

*<sup>37</sup> And he said to him,  
“You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and with all your  
soul and with all your mind.  
<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first  
commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is  
like it: You shall love your neighbor  
as yourself.*

**Matthew 22:37-39**

# **1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)**

a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)

b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)



*<sup>4</sup> I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.*

*<sup>5</sup> For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn— fighting without and fear within.*

*<sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,*

## **II Corinthians 7:4-6**

<sup>7</sup> *and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.*

<sup>8</sup> *For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while.*

## **II Corinthians 7:7-8**

*<sup>9</sup> As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.*

*<sup>10</sup> For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

## **II Corinthians 7:9-10a**

“Ministers, who are really sent of God, greatly rejoice in the spiritual prosperity of their people.

If they see God’s word prosper, they prosper; if the church of God is blessed, they are blessed.

Their life is wrapped up in the spiritual life of their people.

Never is the servant of God so full of delight as when he sees that the Holy Spirit is visiting his hearers, making them to know the Lord, and confirming them in that heavenly knowledge.

On the other hand, ...



**Charles Spurgeon**

... if God does not bless the word of his servants it is like death to them. To be preaching and to have no blessing make them heavy of heart...They get depressed, and they go back to their Master, with this complaint, 'Who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?'"



**Charles Spurgeon**

**1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)**

a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)

b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)

**2. Pray for the spiritual progress of others (vs 9-10)**

a. By Thanking God (vs. 9)

*What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?*

**Psalm 116:12**

“I love you so much that when I see God’s grace in your life I am utterly elated.

Indeed, your spiritual growth affords me so much joy in the presence of God that I am profoundly indebted to you – and I am impelled all the more to thank God for you.”



**D.A. Carson**  
***Praying with Paul***



# **1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)**

a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)

b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)

# **2. Pray for the spiritual progress of others (vs 9-10)**

a. By Thanking God (vs. 9)

b. By Interceding for Others (vs. 10)

*pray without ceasing,*

**I Thessalonians 5:17**

- Paul asks God for a face-to-face reunion.
- Paul asks God for their faith to strengthen.

**Intercessions in Our Text**

## **KEY POINT:**

**God deserves glory when there is measurable spiritual progression.**

*The heavens declare the  
glory of God,  
and the sky above  
proclaims his handiwork.*

**Psalm 19:1**

*So, whether you eat or drink,  
or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.*

**I Corinthians 10:31**

## **KEY POINT:**

**God deserves glory when there is measurable spiritual progression.**