

1 Thessalonians 2-3

Comprehension: (In other words, what does it say?)

What's the focus of Chapter 2? Why does Paul start chapter 2 a bit on the defensive?

What's the focus of Chapter 3? Who did they send to visit and why?

Interpretation: (In other words, what does it mean?)

Paul and his companions were 'approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel' - Compare/contrast a true teacher and a false teacher:

"As apostles, we could have been a burden to you..." In what way could they have been a burden?

Paul recognized spiritual warfare was what was blocking his quest for a return visit and wrote "Satan stopped us" ...how did he circumvent the situation? How does it still benefit us to this day?

What were Paul's rewards for his efforts with this young church?

Compare the suffering of the Thessalonians with the suffering experienced by the believers in Judea. Why were they willing to suffer? What were the reasons behind the Jewish leaders trying to prevent Paul from speaking to the Gentiles?

How can suffering go hand in hand with temptation?

Ch 3:12, what kind of increased and overflowing love is Paul talking about here?

Application: (In other words, how do I apply this to my life?)

Do you know who you are trying to please?

Word of God vs. word of men...have you ever suffered for your Christian beliefs? Are you prepared to suffer, do you see it as "an appointment" you've made? If yes, how do you maintain your joy despite it? What does the cross represent, regarding suffering? Why does our kind, loving God pack suffering into our walk with Him?

Do you have a generous overflowing love for **everyone**? Have you noticed your love for others growing the longer you've been a Christian? Does your love translate into service to others...the "labor of love" we spoke about last week?

In what ways do you strive to be blameless and holy in God's presence?