

A GROUNDING MINISTRY

Introduction: "Much of the ministry of the apostles was devoted to _____ new converts in the faith, a ministry as necessary today as it was in the first century" (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

- I. Thessalonica's _____ (1 Thessalonians 3:1-4)
 - A. Paul was not distracted with the sights of Athens; his heart was with the _____ of this church.
 - B. Paul never started churches to _____ them to survive on their own.
 - C. Timothy was considered an equal to Paul and was _____.
 - D. He was sent to establish--_____ and comfort--_____.
 - E. It was their _____ that Paul was most concerned about.
 - F. _____ needs some encouraging in the faith (1 Sam. 23:16).
 - G. Our faith is what Satan _____ (Eph. 6:16).
 - H. _____ can wear down a person's faith.
 - I. Hard times do not mean God is _____ with you.
 - J. Trials are part of God's _____ for each church and believer (2 Cor. 4:15-17; 2 Tim. 3:10-12).
 - K. Believers ought to _____ themselves so persecutions don't come as a surprise (Jn. 15:18; 16:33; 1 Jn. 3:13).
- II. Satan's _____ (1 Thessalonians 3:5)
 - A. Satan is the _____ of our faith.
 - B. His goal is for believers to _____ the goodness of God (Gen. 3:5).
 - C. Satan seeks to undo the work that God's _____ do (Lu. 8:5).
- III. Paul's _____ (1 Thessalonians 3:6-8)
 - A. The Lord sends trials to _____ our faith (1 Pe. 1:7).
 - B. The Thessalonians did not allow their trials to lead them to _____ or self pity.
 - C. They continued to focus on the needs of _____.
 - D. What a comfort it is to church leaders when good _____ are given concerning the spiritual growth of new believers.
 - E. This church was Paul's _____ and his joy depended on their faith in the Lord and their living for Him.

Conclusion: "Love is not affection or just a nice, comfortable, warm feeling around your heart. Love seeks the welfare of another" (McGee).