

I THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

Memorize I Thessalonians 3:12. Yes _____. Said to _____. Come on, be creative! Ask a neighbor or your boss to check you. Or call someone in your class and say it to her. How about the kids?

Read again I Thessalonians.

1. A LITTLE REVIEW: This week I looked for and found an opportunity to:
 - _____ a. tell someone I thank God for their labor of love, work of faith or endurance produced by hope in Jesus.
 - _____ b. go through a struggle with joy.
 - _____ c. tell another the good news of Jesus with boldness (not brashness).
 - _____ d. share my life with a believer in order to encourage them to live a life worthy of God.
 - _____ e. exhort a brother or sister in the Lord by telling them what the Word of God says they must do, so that they might be set free to enjoy and increasingly reflect the beauty of Jesus.
 - _____ f. write a note or email to someone saying I care for them in the Lord and long to see them.
 - _____ g. other

Can you find a reference for each of the above in I Thessalonians?

You probably will do just one or two of the above. If you're not alert, you might miss even that one! See if the Father is directing you to one that is not in your nature and is outside of your comfort zone.

Read I Thessalonians 3:6-13

2. Why did Timothy journey again to the Thessalonians? Look back in Chapter 3 if you can't remember.

3. What report did Timothy bring to Paul?

4. What was Paul's response to Timothy's report?

5. In verses 11-13 Paul interjects a prayer in his letter to the Thessalonians. List the things Paul prays for them.

6. In each case, who is Paul depending on for the desired results?

7. Paul had mentioned that he longed to see them before he sent Timothy to them. Did he forget to pray or what happened? Does the fact that he prays to go see them ensure he will get to go see them? Explain.

8. How does your answer to number 7 affect your attitude as you pray for others and yourself?

Re-read I Thessalonians Chapter 3, paying special attention to the concepts of *faith*, *love* and *joy*. Faith is mentioned at least 5 times.

9. Write what you know about faith based on a careful consideration of Chapter 3.

10. Tell what you can about love from this chapter.

11. Read I Corinthians 13 and list the characteristics of love that we are to exhibit to all people as well as to fellow believers. Is this love an emotional response to a person? Explain.

12. How do you think faith in God is related to love for others? This one will require some thinking rather than looking at the text for an answer.

13. In this chapter what was the source of Paul's joy?

14. Where do we often tell ourselves joy will come from?

15. a. What can we incorporate into our lives to find joy as Paul did here? Consider also Hebrews 12:2-3.

b. "Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today." William James

NOTE: In Great Britain when the Queen's own flag is flying over Buckingham Palace in London or over Balmoral Castle in Scotland, for example, this indicates to all that she is actually residing there at the time.

Thinking of the Christian life, what does this mean to you?