

ANTICIPATE!

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN A STUDY THROUGH 1 THESSALONIANS

#4 Now We're Really Living! I Thessalonians 3:1-13

TIMOTHY'S REPORT AND PAUL'S JOY

1Thessalonians 3:1 *So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. ⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ **For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.** ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

**Real Living is not found in Being Self-Absorbed.
Real Living is found in cultivating an
Others-Oriented Mindset.**

Jesus
Others
You

REALLY LIVING: PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE SELF

- 1. Consuming Concern for the SPIRITUAL WELFARE of OTHERS** *(not just the material welfare of self)*
 - Concerned about them losing faith in the midst of trials – vv.2,5
 - Concerned they might forget what they had been taught – vv.3-4
 - Concerned to the point of sacrificing comfort and sending help – vv.1,5
 - Concerned about Satan's activity undermining his ministry efforts in their lives – v.5
- 2. Abounding Joy over the SPIRITUAL PROGRESS of OTHERS** *(not just the personal accomplishments of self)*
 - Joy in hearing good news about their spiritual progress – vv.6,7,8
 - Joy in finding out that his love for them was mutual – v.6
 - Joy in remembering them before the Lord in prayer – v.9
 - Joy in anticipating more opportunities to be together again and filling them up! – v.10
- 3. Wishful Prayers for the CONTINUED GROWTH of OTHERS** *(not just the needs of self)*
 - Their **FAITH** in God would be filled up through being taught more of His Word – v.10-11
 - Their **LOVE** for others would grow and overflow – v.12
 - Their **HOPE** for Christ's Return would be strengthened, resulting in a deeper resolve for holy living NOW – v.13

**Others, Lord, yes others. Let this my motto be.
O let me live for others, that I may live like Thee.**