

Good morning Second Family.

How we missed being together yesterday! I do pray that you were blessed by the Spirit's presence in your family worship. Let us know if there is more we can do to equip and encourage you in that.

Be strengthened as we meditate on 1 Thessalonians 3 in our **Wisdom not Worry** devotionals this week.

Wisdom not Worry

Monday, March 23, 2020

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

“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, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.”

After two weeks of social distancing, it might be a comfort to know that Paul, Timothy and Silas understood what it was like not to be able to be with the ones you love. Because of persecution they were “torn away” from and experienced “intense longing” for their spiritual family in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 2:17). To encourage and strengthen them in their faith and to ensure that “no one would be unsettled by these trials,” Paul reminds them “we were destined” for this affliction. In other words, God has appointed these difficult times. Consider three reasons why this knowledge is an encouragement.

*First, it reminds us that **God’s Word is reliable**. What he says, comes to pass. Did Jesus not tell us that in the end times there would be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places (Luke 21:11)? Remember this when you read Psalm 91 - “If you make the Most High your dwelling...then no harm will befall you.” If God says it, you can count on it.*

*Second, it assures us that our **God is all-knowing**. If He has appointed this, then we can be certain He is not surprised by it. When flying, I am always comforted when the pilot warns of upcoming turbulence before we go through it. I do not like turbulence, but knowing that the pilot isn’t caught off guard by it offers some assurance. It is when the turbulence catches the pilot by surprise that I get nervous! The world is panicking because Covid-19 has caught us unprepared. Good news! This is not catching God by surprise! He never panics.*

*Finally, it reminds us that **God has a purpose**. Knowing that God has “destined” us for these trials, begs the question - Why? I invite you to join me this week as we continue to study this text to discern some of God’s good purposes in these trials. He really does have an upside to our down times.*

Grateful,

Pastor Ben