

- I. Paul had a deep concern for the church
 - A. He loved his people
 - B. He understood the enemy

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (I Peter 5:8-9)

- C. He anticipated the Lord’s return
- II. Paul sent them an encouraging helper
 - A. Timothy went as a brother in Christ
 - B. Timothy went as a co-worker in God’s service
 - C. Timothy encouraged them in their faith
 - D. Timothy told them to expect trials

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” (I Peter 4:12-13)

- E. Timothy encouraged them to have trust God in spite of trials
- III. Paul received the report from Timothy
 - A. The church exhibited an unshakable faith

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O King. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Daniel 3:17-18)

- B. The church had a growing love
 - C. The church gave Paul great joy
- IV. Paul prayed for the church
 - A. That their faith in Christ might mature

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

- B. That God might allow Paul to visit them

C. That their love for others would flourish

“Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
(Ephesians 5:2)

D. That their hearts would be strengthened

E. That they would live the lives of holiness

“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.” (2 Peter 3:11)