



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Getting Ready for the Second Coming” LESSON #3 = The Concern of the Church

by Ray Reynolds on January 17, 2016

Text: I Thessalonians 3



Introduction: It is evident from **Acts 1:9-11** that Jesus ascended into heaven. However, before that ascension, He made a promise that He would come back again for the saints (**John 14:1-6**). What does that promise mean to us? We know that Jesus is coming again but what must we do about it? We need to get our (spiritual) bags packed! We need to think about what really concerns us (**I Thessalonians 3**). It's hard to travel with distractions. What hinders you in this journey? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Be Encouraged, Not Tormented (vs.1-3)

¹Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, ²and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, ³that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

II. Be Strengthened, Not Tempted (vs.4-5)

⁴For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. ⁵For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

III. Be Delighted, Not Traumatized (vs.6-10)

⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you— ⁷therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

IV. Be Established, Not Troubled (vs.11-13)

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, ¹³so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Conclusion: Have you started preparing for Jesus to come again? His second coming is imminent. Are you getting your (spiritual) bags packed? We can get better prepared for the trip by walking with others who are also getting ready. We also need to remember those who have made the journey before us (**Hebrews 11-12**). Don't wait until the last minute to get things in order! Remove the distractions that hinder you from focusing on what really matters. Be saved now while you can enjoy this life and appreciate the next. Are you ready to meet Jesus? If not, make things right today!