

STAND FIRM IN CHRIST



INTRODUCTION



- WHAT CAUSES US TO WAIVER IN OUR FAITH IN CHRIST (QUESTION OUR BELIEFS)
- ARE WE CONSISTENT IN OUR WALK WITH CHRIST
- PERSECUTION AND TEMPTATION CAN CAUSE US TO STUMBLE
- STAND FIRM HAVE A MADE UP MIND
- THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING BY **GOD'S** SUPPLY OR BY **OUR OWN** RESOURCES IS A "**LIFE AND DEATH**" MATTER. *"THE LETTER **KILLS**, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES **LIFE**."* ATTEMPTING TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BY **OUR** CAPABILITIES WILL EVENTUALLY LEAVE US EXHAUSTED, DISCOURAGED, CONDEMNED. WHEREAS, **DEPENDING** UPON THE **SPIRIT** OF GOD TO SUPPLY THE **ABUNDANT GRACE** OF GOD LEAVES US **STRENGTHENED, ENCOURAGED,** AND **COMFORTED.**



TAKEN FROM AN 2016 ARTICLE IN ISRAEL MY GLORY BY DAVID M. LEVY

- THESSALONICA WAS ESTABLISHED AROUND 315 BC BY CASSANDER, WHO NAMED IT AFTER HIS WIFE THESSALONICA, THE HALF-SISTER OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT. THE ROMANS TOOK THE CITY IN 168 BC AND MADE IT THE CAPITAL OF MACEDONIA IN GREECE.
- THESSALONICA WAS A “FREE CITY” (WITHOUT A MILITARY FORCE) GOVERNED BY ITS CITIZENS AND WAS MORE GREEK THAN ROMAN IN CHARACTER. ITS POPULATION, ESTIMATED AT 200,000, WAS MADE UP OF GREEKS, ROMANS, AND JEWS.
- RELIGIOUS PLURALISM FILLED THESSALONICA WITH ALL TYPES OF PAGAN CULTS, TEMPLES, AND DEITIES. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE INDICATES AT LEAST 25 GODS WERE REPRESENTED IN HEATHEN WORSHIP, INCLUDING ZEUS, ATHENA, APOLLO, ARTEMIS, APHRODITE, DIONYSUS, AND THE ROMAN EMPEROR, TO NAME A FEW. HOWEVER, SOME GENTILES HAD BECOME PROSELYTES TO JUDAISM AND WERE KNOWN AS GOD-FEARERS.

FAITHFUL IN ADVERSITY

God rewards the faithful who, amid their circumstances continued to believe in His wisdom, mercy and power instead of questioning His reasons.

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- MODELS OF PERSEVERANCE
- [1TH 2:13-20 KJV] 13 FOR THIS CAUSE ALSO THANK WE GOD WITHOUT CEASING, BECAUSE, WHEN YE RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YE HEARD OF US, YE RECEIVED [IT] NOT [AS] THE WORD OF MEN, BUT AS IT IS IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH EFFECTUALLY WORKETH ALSO IN YOU THAT BELIEVE. 14 FOR YE, BRETHREN, BECAME FOLLOWERS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD WHICH IN JUDAEA ARE IN CHRIST JESUS: FOR YE ALSO HAVE SUFFERED LIKE THINGS OF YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN, EVEN AS THEY [HAVE] OF THE JEWS: 15 WHO BOTH KILLED THE LORD JESUS, AND THEIR OWN PROPHETS, AND HAVE PERSECUTED US; AND THEY PLEASE NOT GOD, AND ARE CONTRARY TO ALL MEN: 16 FORBIDDING US TO SPEAK TO THE GENTILES THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED, TO FILL UP THEIR SINS ALWAY: FOR THE WRATH IS COME UPON THEM TO THE UTTERMOST.

FAITHFUL IN ADVERSITY

- REJOICING OVER FAITHFULNESS
- [1TH 2:17-20 KJV] 17 BUT WE, BRETHREN, BEING TAKEN FROM YOU FOR A SHORT TIME IN PRESENCE, NOT IN HEART, ENDEAVOURED THE MORE ABUNDANTLY TO SEE YOUR FACE WITH GREAT DESIRE. 18 WHEREFORE WE WOULD HAVE COME UNTO YOU, EVEN I PAUL, ONCE AND AGAIN; BUT SATAN HINDERED US. 19 FOR WHAT [IS] OUR HOPE, OR JOY, OR CROWN OF REJOICING? [ARE] NOT EVEN YE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AT HIS COMING? 20 FOR YE ARE OUR GLORY AND JOY.

ENCOURAGEMENT AMID PERSECUTION

IF GOD IS FOR US,
WHO CAN BE
AGAINST US?
—ROMANS 8:31
FEELIKEHOMEBLOG.COM

- STRENGTHENED AND HELPED
- [1TH 3:1-13 KJV] 1 WHEREFORE WHEN WE COULD NO LONGER FORBEAR, WE THOUGHT IT GOOD TO BE LEFT AT ATHENS ALONE; 2 AND SENT TIMOTHEUS, OUR BROTHER, AND MINISTER OF GOD, AND OUR FELLOW LABOURER IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, TO ESTABLISH YOU, AND TO COMFORT YOU CONCERNING YOUR FAITH:
- [ACTS 17:10-12 KJV] 10 AND THE BRETHREN IMMEDIATELY SENT AWAY PAUL AND SILAS BY NIGHT UNTO BEREIA: WHO COMING [THITHER] WENT INTO THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE JEWS. 11 THESE WERE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, IN THAT THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL READINESS OF MIND, AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO. 12 THEREFORE MANY OF THEM BELIEVED; ALSO OF HONOURABLE WOMEN WHICH WERE GREEKS, AND OF MEN, NOT A FEW.

ENCOURAGEMENT AMID PERSECUTION

- DEALING WITH ADVERSITY
- [1TH 3:3-5 KJV] 3 THAT NO MAN SHOULD BE MOVED BY THESE AFFLICTIONS: FOR YOURSELVES KNOW THAT WE ARE APPOINTED THEREUNTO. 4 FOR VERILY, WHEN WE WERE WITH YOU, WE TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT WE SHOULD SUFFER TRIBULATION; EVEN AS IT CAME TO PASS, AND YE KNOW. 5 FOR THIS CAUSE, WHEN I COULD NO LONGER FORBEAR, I SENT TO KNOW YOUR FAITH, LEST BY SOME MEANS THE TEMPTER HAVE TEMPTED YOU, AND OUR LABOUR BE IN VAIN.
- **WHAT ADVERSITY FOR CHRIST DO WE FACE AT THIS MOMENT?**

PAUL'S INTENSE INTERCESSION

- COMFORT IN SUFFERING
- [1TH 3:6-9 KJV] 6 BUT NOW WHEN TIMOTHEUS CAME FROM YOU UNTO US, AND BROUGHT US GOOD TIDINGS OF YOUR FAITH AND CHARITY, AND THAT YE HAVE GOOD REMEMBRANCE OF US ALWAYS, DESIRING GREATLY TO SEE US, AS WE ALSO [TO SEE] YOU: 7 THEREFORE, BRETHREN, WE WERE COMFORTED OVER YOU IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION AND DISTRESS BY YOUR FAITH: 8 FOR NOW WE LIVE, IF YE STAND FAST IN THE LORD. 9 FOR WHAT THANKS CAN WE RENDER TO GOD AGAIN FOR YOU, FOR ALL THE JOY WHEREWITH WE JOY FOR YOUR SAKES BEFORE OUR GOD;

PAUL'S INTENSE INTERCESSION

- **CONTINUAL PRAYER**

- [1TH 3:10-13 KJV] 10 NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING EXCEEDINGLY THAT WE MIGHT SEE YOUR FACE, AND MIGHT PERFECT THAT WHICH IS LACKING IN YOUR FAITH? 11 NOW GOD HIMSELF AND OUR FATHER, AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, DIRECT OUR WAY UNTO YOU. 12 AND THE LORD MAKE YOU TO INCREASE AND ABOUND IN LOVE ONE TOWARD ANOTHER, AND TOWARD ALL [MEN], EVEN AS WE [DO] TOWARD YOU: **13 TO THE END HE MAY STABLISH YOUR HEARTS UNBLAMEABLE IN HOLINESS BEFORE GOD, EVEN OUR FATHER, AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL HIS SAINTS.**