

THE CHURCH AT HER BEST: ROOTED

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

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1st thought: These people were rooted.

3:6-8 "But now that Timothy has come to us from you and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you — ⁷ for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord."

Greek word: Evangelizo

Definition— proclaim glad tidings, good news

Your knowledge of God is a deep root that will anchor you to Jesus for life.

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.... For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most important fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God." ~A.W. Tozer

"But he knows the way that I take; when He has tried me, I shall come out as gold." ~Job 23:10

Love (agape): strong, non-sexual affection and regard for a person and their good as understood by God's moral character; especially characterized by a willing forfeiture of rights or privileges in another person's behalf. ~Logos Bible Software

3:7-8 ⁷... for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord."

Greek: standing fast – Steko

Definition: to hold one's ground; maintain a position; be steadfast

Thessalonian Christians had developed roots in their faith because of their commitment to the Word of God.

²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?" ~2 Corinthians 11:28-29

"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." ~1 Thessalonians 2:13

2nd Thought: We need others to walk alongside of us to help us be more deeply rooted.

3:9-10 ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?"

3rd Thought: Jesus is the one who roots us.

3:11-13 ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

My soul clings to you; Your right hand upholds me.
Psalm 63:8 ESV

The gospel message is the foundation of the Christian.

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