

6/28/20

Recap of 6/21/20 (1 Thessalonians 3:10-13):

1. The Thessalonians faith needed to grow and mature. As with them we always have room to grow. They had shortcomings and deficiencies which Paul would deal with in Chapters 4 7 5. Paul desire was to help them grow; to correct them, restore them and equip them for usefulness to God. He prayed night and day for them, so great was his concern.
2. The word Paul uses is "supply." The same Greek word is translated other places in the Scripture as "restore," "prepare," or "equip." It means "to complete" or make "complete." It is used of setting a broken bone or mending a fishing net. One author writes that the idea is "to fit something for its full and proper use." It is used in Ephesians 4:12 and Galatians 6:1. According to those passages our deficiencies are repaired by the Word of God (through the teaching ministry of the church), Ephesians 4:12; and as we are challenged by other believers who are spiritually growing, Galatians 6:1.
3. In 3:11-13 Paul closes out this section with a prayer. Paul had three concerns for his prayer: that God may clear the way for him to come to them; that their love for each other would increase; and that God would strengthen them so that they might be blameless (doesn't mean sinless-but sin dealt with and confessed, (1 John 1:9) and holy (set apart to God/set apart from sin)).
4. Thoughts about developing biblical love:
 - First, we must get rid of the "danger of me" (getting rid of selfishness, a "me first" attitude).
 - "Pat Riley, the outstanding NBA coach, wrote about the 'danger of me.' He said, 'The most difficult thing for individuals to do when they're part of a team is to sacrifice. It's so easy to become selfish in a team environment. To play for me...Willingness to sacrifice is the great paradox. You must give up something in the immediate present—comfort, ease, recognition, quick rewards—to attract something even better in the future.'" (from "The One Year Uncommon Life Challenge")
 - Second, we must learn to love the hard to love. Jesus warned against the kind of love which loves only those who are lovable (that's what the pagans to, he said) (Matthew 5:46-47).
 - Third, we must be ready to offer forgiveness to those who hurt us (Ephesians 4:32)