

SEPARATION, TRIBULATION, JOY  
I THESS. 3:1-13

Introduction:

- A. Paul has reminded them of what they mean to him.
  - 1. 2:19-20.
  
- B. He wanted to see them but Satan hindered.
  - 1. 2:18.
  
- C. When the devil blocks one road you try another.
  - 1. 3:1-2.

I. SEPARATION MUST OCCUR. V2:17.

- A. Paul was kept from them but another was sent. v2.
  - 1. A minister of God.
  - 2. A fellow labourer.
  
- B. Timothy came for a purpose.
  - 1. To establish you. v2
  - 2. To comfort you. v2
  
- C. Separations are necessary.
  - 1. A person who will not endure separations is doomed to failure.

II. PERSECUTION IS APPOINTED. V3

- A. They had been warned. v4
  
- B. Some quit under adversity.
  - 1. Paul knew and was concerned. v5
  - 1. Jesus taught it.
  - 3. Matt. 13:20-21.
  
- C. In many ways we are an untried generation.

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1. No persecution for 150 years.
2. Political persecution would reveal some strange facts.

### III. JOY IS OUR REWARD. V6

A. Timothy brought good news. v6

1. "faith and charity."
2. "you remember us."
3. "you want to see us."

B. Paul was kept alive in them. v8

1. As parents live in children, preachers live in their converts.

C. Paul ran out of words. v9

D. They were not perfected. v10

1. perfection = maturity.

E. They should continue to grow. v12

F. The end of all effort. v11-13