

# “The Thessalonian Report Card, Part 1”

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Sunday, May 23, 2021, 10:30 a.m.  
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI  
Pastor Jonathan DeCou  
*1 Thessalonians 3:1-5*

**BIG IDEA:** A good shepherd keeps tabs on his flock.

*“And we sent Timothy,  
our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ,  
to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith.”  
1 Thessalonians 3:2*



## **Paul’s concern for the Thessalonians. (v1)**

- Paul’s concern comes from his loving commitment.
- Paul’s concern comes from his sense of responsibility.
- Paul’s concern comes from his selflessness.



## **Paul’s representative to the Thessalonians. (v2)**

- Timothy’s character.
  - Timothy is Paul’s brother.
  - Timothy is God’s coworker.
- Timothy’s mission.
  - To remind them of the preeminence of the Gospel.
  - To build them up.
  - To comfort them.



## **Paul’s challenge to the Thessalonians. (v3-5)**

- Afflictions must not distract us.
- Afflictions must not surprise us.
- Afflictions must not divert us.

**BIG IDEA:** A good shepherd keeps tabs on his flock.

**READ:** 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

**THINK:** Review the first part of Paul’s “report card” on the Thessalonians, then ask yourself these questions: *How did you feel when your report card was sent home to your parents from school? Worried? Confident? Oblivious? What does this passage teach you about Paul’s role as a pastor/shepherd? Was Paul a worry wart? Why or why not? Why does Paul specifically send Timothy as his emissary to the Thessalonians? How does it make Paul feel to send his trusted companion back to Thessalonica? What impresses you most about Timothy? How would you respond to someone who suggests God wants you to live a trouble-free and prosperous life? What troubles and afflictions are you dealing with right now? How has someone else’s faith been an encouragement to you? Have you told them?*

**DO:** Identify someone you can build up and comfort in the faith. Be accountable to one other person who will help strengthen and comfort you in the faith. Determine your defense strategy to persevere through tough times.