



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: A Faith Investment**

**Date: October 6, 2024**

**Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10**

### **Notes:**

Usually when we think about making an investment, it is in the context of finances, placing money into a fund or resource we feel may give us a return that is greater than the original investment. What might that look like in a spiritual context? How do we make a 'faith investment'? What is needed? How will we know what the return is and how does it compare to our original investment? This is where our focus will be today as we continue our study of 1 Thessalonians, looking at 3 facts about a faith investment.

#### **I. A Personal Investment (1 Thess. 3:1-5)**

[1 Thessalonians 3](#) picks up where [chapter 2](#) left off. [1 Thessalonians 2:17](#) describes Paul's desire to be with the Thessalonian Christians. He was run out of town, or as he says, "taken away from you". He didn't feel he could return without causing trouble, so he sent Timothy. Paul was in the pagan city of Athens, yet he was willing to be left there without Timothy for the benefit and care of those in Thessalonica.

- With any investment, there is a cost. What would you say the cost was that Paul paid to invest in the Thessalonians by sending Timothy?
- We see that the purpose for Timothy's return was to strengthen and encourage them in their faith ([vs. 2](#)). Describe how you think Timothy did that.
- How are Paul & Timothy's actions reflective of how the church should function today?
- Paul also gave his readers a heads up that as followers of Christ they would suffer afflictions ([vss. 3-4](#)). How can having clear biblical expectations help us in our walk with Christ?
- How would you 'strengthen and encourage' someone in their faith?
- How could encouraging another build your own faith?

#### **II. A Prosperous Investment (1 Thess. 3:6-9)**

There is a two-fold return when we make *faith investments*; 1) Personal Joy ([vss. 6-8](#)) and 2) Praise to God ([vs. 9](#)). Timothy returned from his trip and shared the good news of the Thessalonian's faith and love. These two traits should be found in every Christian. You get the sense that Paul is overjoyed at the news Timothy shared. In turn, he takes time to praise God for the work he was doing there.

- Why do you think Paul responded the way he did when he heard Timothy's report?
- How often do you respond in a similar way when you hear of another's faith and love?
- Why is it so important to give God the credit and praise?



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### **III. A Prayerful Investment (1 Thess. 3:10)**

“Paul’s fervent longing to see the Thessalonians again finds expression in constant and fervent prayer. There are two points in his continual prayer: the first that Paul may be reunited with the Thessalonians, the second that he may supply what is lacking in their faith” (Morris). Paul knew that the Thessalonian Christians needed prayer, and he was diligent to do so continually.

- How is praying for others a way to invest in them?
- How is prayer an important element in building up the faith of others?
- Who do you pray for on a regular basis for their spiritual maturity and growing faith?

“Ministers, who are really sent of God, greatly rejoice in the spiritual prosperity of their people. If they see God’s word prosper, they prosper; if the church of God is blessed, they are blessed. Their life is wrapped up in the spiritual life of their people.”

Charles Spurgeon

“Be on your guard against sin, on your guard against injustice of all sorts, on your guard against worldly appetites and greed. It is only then, you see, that our profit from you is undiminished and our reward full of joy in the Lord... Still, we don’t want our reward to be assured with all of you being lost, but with all of you being found. The apostle Paul too was sure of his reward, and yet what did he say to the people? ‘Now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.’”

Augustine