



IMMOVABLE

LIVING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

Becoming God's Coworkers

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

(1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 ESV)



Has anyone seen this sticker?

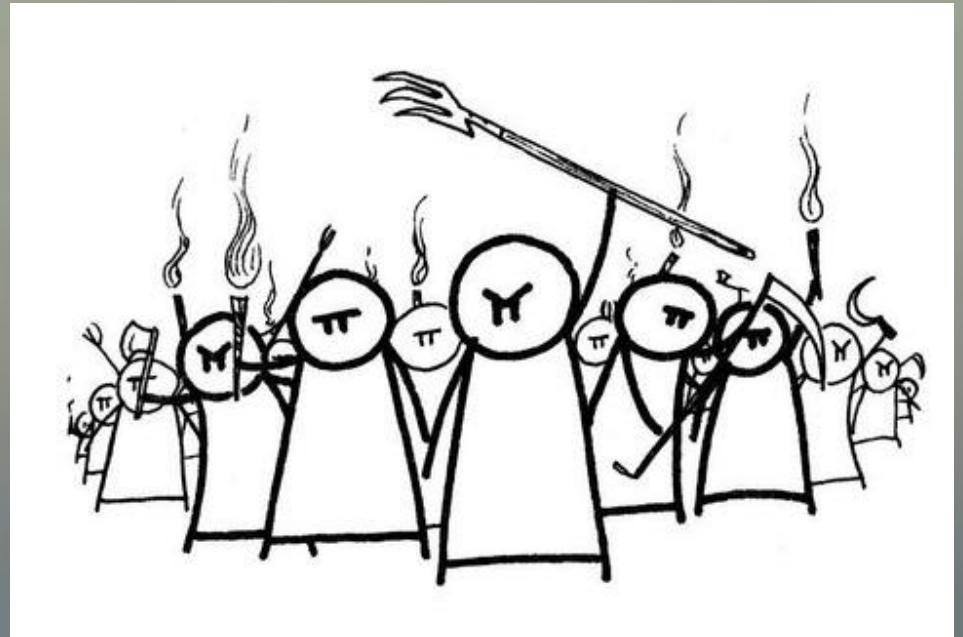


What's wrong with it??

Becoming God's Coworkers: A Recap

What was going on in Greece at the time?

- Paul and his constituents had given the Thessalonians the good news, starting a church in Thessalonica.
- Paul, Silas and Timothy were chased from Thessalonica to Berea, then to Athens by angry mobs.



Becoming God's Coworkers: Paul's Concern

What is going to happen to the Thessalonians while Paul isn't there? What is his concern?

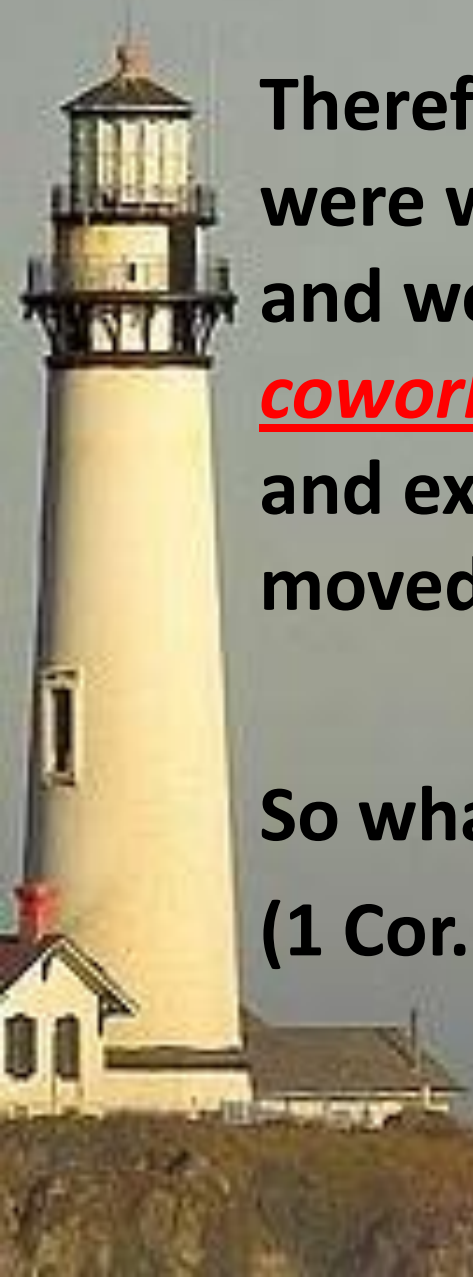
- Paul wanted to see them again, but Satan was stopping them (1 Thes. 2:18)
- Were they holding up under all of the affliction?
- What could Paul do?



Becoming God's Coworkers: Timothy

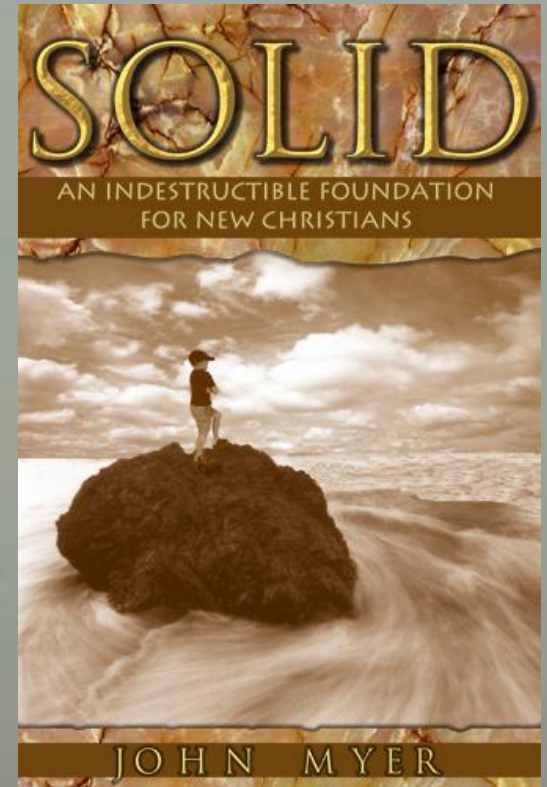
Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent *Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ*, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. (vv. 1-3a)

So what does God's coworker look like?
(1 Cor. 3)



What does God's Coworker do?

- To exhort and establish a strong foundation of faith in the church at Thessalonica
- To keep the church going strong as they were when word was spreading of their newfound faith
- **PREACH THE WORD!**



Immovable in the Face of Persecution



And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions.

For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.

(1 Thessalonians 3:2-3)



Good News/Bad News

For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

(1 Thessalonians 3:4)

The Tempter's Temptations

For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

(1 Thessalonians 3:5)





The Tempter's Temptations

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(1 Thessalonians 3:5)



The Tempter's Temptations

- Temptation due to family persecution.
- Temptation due to cultural persecution.
- Temptation due to religious persecution.



Fear of Laboring in Vain

- Fear of the stopping, stunting, or perversion of the spiritual growth of the Thessalonians.
- Fear of the Christians not maturing to be effective coworkers of God.
- Fear that the church's shining forth Christ in the city would be dimmed or extinguished.



Immovable in the Face of Temptation

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 4:14-16)

