

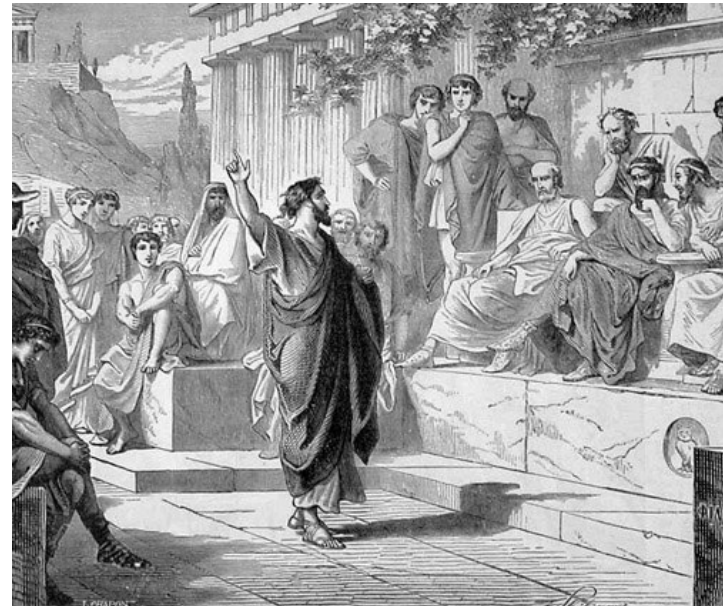
4. What are some practical ways in which you (as an individual) give importance to your spiritual welfare?

5. Discuss some practical ways in which we as community can give the utmost importance to the spiritual nurture of one another?

The 1st Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Study Three

(April 2010)



*Delhi Bible Fellowship
Central Delhi Congregation
Home Group Study Notes*

A GODLY CONCERN FOR PEOPLE

What are you most concerned for in the lives of the people God has placed around you? Is it the academic welfare of these people, their careers, their financial “success” in this world etc? What about the *spiritual welfare* of these people? Is it important to us whether or not they know the Lord and are walking with Him? Isn’t God most concerned about where people are in their relationship with Him?

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1 – 13

In this letter the apostles go all out to show the Thessalonians the concern they had for their *spiritual welfare*. Now we might argue and say that this was their job as apostles and so was expected of them. However, in verse 12 Paul prays that the Thessalonians would abound in love for one another just as the apostles loved them. So the expectation of this kind of love for other people is for all believers. In other words, a Christian ought to be concerned about the *spiritual welfare* of others.

In what way did apostles show their concern? Well, for one they were willing to rough it out in Athens by allowing Timothy to return to Thessalonica in order to “establish and exhort” the church there (3:1,2). Further, their response to Timothy’s report reveals the extent to which they were concerned for the *spiritual welfare* of the Thessalonians. They were:

- Comforted in the midst of trials because of the Thessalonians faith
- Feeling “alive” because the Thessalonians were standing firm
- Filled with great joy because of the Thessalonians

All these things indicate a great enthusiasm that the apostles had for the spiritual condition of these people. We all do get excited about the

successes that our family and friends have in this world. Promotions, appraisals, distinctions, economic accomplishments are greatly praised by us, and so indicate their importance to us. The question before us in this study is whether or not we consider spiritual matters as important (if not more) as these other things. Is it as important to us (if not more) to raise our children in the instruction of God’s Word? Is it important to us to spur one another on to Godliness in our workplaces? Is important to us to encourage one another to consider God’s glory over our own? Are you excited and do you feel “alive” when people around you are growing spiritually?

These are important things for us to consider because it is all part of the mandate we have before us to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:18-20). If our concern for the *spiritual welfare* of others is low on our agenda, then the church will not be doing what it exists for.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why did Paul send Timothy to the Thessalonians? (3:1,2, 5)
2. Who is this “tempter?” (3:5) What does Paul say in Ephesians 6:10 – 12 about what the or whom the Christian is up against?
3. In the light of these facts (about a Christian’s enemy) how important should the *spiritual welfare* of people be to us?