1Thess #45

Not everybody gets a trophy.

Pick it back up today in 1Thessalonians chapter 3.

1Thes 3:1 Therefore, when we could no longer endure *it,* we thought it best to be left behind, alone at Athens,

[1Th 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/2/s_1114002) and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for the benefit of your faith,

Timothy was chosen to follow up the teaching of the Apostle Paul.

This was a common practice in the Apostles ministries.

Especially the Apostle Paul’s ministry they would use an outreach, missionary style journey, to get the gospel into a region.

Then several weeks or a few months later they would send back a pastor-teacher to re-enforce the basic concepts that were taught.

Eventually they would have a qualified pastor-teacher in a permanent position and within a six to eight months a church would fully develop.

[1Th 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/3/s_1114003) so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

/[1Th 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/4/s_1114004) For **even when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance** that we were going **to suffer affliction**; and so it happened, as you know.\

The fact is, any pastor-teacher who does not teach the principle, that we live in a hostile world is lying to his congregation.

A cosmic system, surrounded by satanic ideologies and stumbling blocks is the reality and Christians need to be alert…not afraid, but aware!

[1Th 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/5/s_1114005) For this reason, when I could no longer endure *it,* I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be for nothing.

[1Th 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/6/s_1114006) But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also *long to see* you,

Timothy had brought back a report of their progress in preaching the gospel and evangelizing. He also had to let the Apostle Paul know that several of the congregation members had fallen for a false doctrine.

[1Th 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/7/s_1114007) for this reason, brothers *and sisters,* in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

[1Th 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/8/s_1114008) for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

In verse 4 there is a Greek, present tense used in how they were told - it is an ongoing issue when it comes to afflictions.

They happened in the past - they go on in the present time and they will probably persist into the future.

Some Christians think we shouldn’t suffer affliction and that God wants to teach us only by His Word, and not through testing or adversity.

They miss the point of studying the word accurately and consistently.

/The application of the WORD in the new nature is what is put on display during tests, attacks and stumbling blocks. GOD knows where you are in relation to spiritual growth, yet we must learn where we stand in relation to maturity. It is also openly displaying the angelic conflict and how we participate within it during these challenges.\

There is much suffering we are spared simply by applying God’s word and God wants to spare us that suffering.Nevertheless, suffering was good enough to teach Jesustherefore it is good enough to teach us.

/Heb 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Jesus in HIS humanity endured tests and suffering for our example. He showed us, anything we are tempted with or suffer through, is similar to that which HE walked through in HIS humanity already.\

The life of Jesus through our Father’s perfect plan, teach the Believer perseverance, obedience, how to comfort others, and deeper fellowship with Jesus in trials.

It solidifies our union with Christ on a more intimate level.

/1Thes 3:4 – *to suffer affliction –*

*Thlibō -* often pointed to physical pressure or pain. It was a term used to describe the making of wine by squeezing or compressing grapes. It also pointed out mental pressure.\

THE-LEE-BO – speaks about physical pressure but also can mean mental pressure.

This meant temptation or pressure that pushes us and squeezes us emotionally and physically.

*Paschō –* (PAS-CO) was another Greek word used for suffering in the NT. This pointed to much more bodily or physical damage.

Jesus warned about suffering.

/Luke 9:21 But **He warned them** and instructed *them* not to tell this to anyone, 22 saying, “**The Son of Man must suffer many things** and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised on the third day.”\

We are in union with Christ!

Both PAS-CO and THE-LEE-BO are used consistently in the NT writings speaking about suffering and affliction. Which can mean physical and emotional or mental pressure or pain.

Some teachers speak only of *persecution,* in the sense of Unbels ridiculing Bels or verbal attacks and uncomfortable circumstances.

*Diōgmos -* DEE-OG-MOS, is used for persecution and it means exactly what we call persecution today, persistent harassment - legal or verbally.

Persecution is only one avenue of attacks and tests we will face.

It means to be pursued or legally and verbally assaulted.

The truth is that hardship falls upon everyone occasionally but attacks such as verbally, physically and mentally are part of our Christian walk from time to time.

 REPEAT

It is not every day - but sporadic times of challenges, tests and adversity.

Suffering, affliction and persecution were all thrust upon TLJC during HIS earthly ministry for our benefit!

/Some believe that affliction means God is angry at the Bel, that is a lie. The truth is that affliction, persecutions or suffering means that God loves us and accepted us into HIS Royal Family. The symbol of Christianity is the cross, not a cosmic, couch to take a nap on. Affliction is just part of following Jesus; therefore, Apostle Paul recognized that Christians are appointed to affliction.\

Any teacher, leader, coach or parent that does not train and warn those under their authority to be prepared. And that life is not always going to be a cake-walk, is developing weak people and promoting a lie.

Teaching uncomfortable truth is needed as much as teaching uplifting principles of truth.

 REPEAT

Jump over to Matthew chapter five RF.

The - *everybody gets a trophy,* mentality is really demonic at its core. It is molding a future generation, of emotionally unstable adults.

/Gen 3:15 And **I will make enemies**
Of you and **the woman**, And of
**your offspring and her Descendant;**
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

The battle lines were already drawn by GOD – Satan and his followers are set against Christianity.\

No soldier in combat is surprised when the enemy fires bullets in their direction!

Look what Jesus proclaimed within the Beatitudes;

/Mat 5:10 “Blessed are those who have **been persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*For the sake of righteousness*, means that which the Bel has accomplished in the new nature.\

[Mat 5:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/11/s_934011) “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

The mature Bel knows the cosmic system is set against them. They are much more inclined to overcome and keep moving forward then to crumble and get emotionally distracted.

/[Mat 5:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/12/s_934012) “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this **same way they persecuted the prophets** who were before you.

The true prophets of God all were attacked, rejected and ridiculed.\

Jump ahead to Matthew chapter 16.

Even when we face betrayal from those we thought may have been Bels or people we trusted, we should not be surprised;

/Jhn 6:70 Jesus answered them, “**Did I Myself not choose you**, the twelve? And *yet* **one of you is a devil**.”

*Diabolos –* means one who opposes God, a liar or slanderer. One who stands against truth, false accuser.\

All Bels who move forward in the plan of God not only will be challenged in adversity, but people will verbally attack us or lie to us.

Possibly even steal from us!

Even those closest to us or someone we may have trusted.

/Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, **he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me**.

To deny self speaks to rejecting the flesh, the cosmic viewpoint and temptations. Pick up your cross, tells us we will have difficulties and suffering.\

[Mat 16:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/16/25/s_945025) “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

The truth of that statement is you actually find out who you are. And what your destiny is designed for, when you accept Christ as your savior and then you go all in…as far as getting intimate with HIM!

When you truly let go of the lies and counterfeits of this world. Then dive deep into a relationship with Christ you find out who you are!

Most Bels do not even intimately know themselves until they get closer to Christ.

There is a powerful and confident Bel underneath the surface of your flesh.

[Mat 16:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/16/26/s_945026) “For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul?

The answer is that a person can’t give anything because the price was paid at the cross.

Therefore, the cross excludes human good, the flesh and works programs. To gain the whole world, to make all that profit, is not enough, it was done in the energy of the flesh.

There is no righteousness through the energy of the flesh that is pleasing to God.

There is nothing a man can give in exchange for his soul.

 REPEAT

Let us close in John chapter 15 today.

The ultimate price was paid by TLJC on the cross and when we do not fully yield to that fact we are reliant upon the cosmic system or the flesh.

There are only two choices - God’s plan and God’s way or Satan’s cosmic system.

/Unbels give themselves over to a life of nothing - fleshly desires and cosmic victories and many Bels walk in the same manner. The loser Bel goes to heaven minus blessings and rewards. They never truly know who they could have been in Christ. They settle for worldly trophies that are nothing but saw dust and kindling wood. They reject the challenge of Spiritual Victories leading to precious stones and eternal crowns.\

Jhn 15:18 “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.

***IF*** is a 1st class condition – this is truth!

/[Jhn 15:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/15/19/s_1012019) “If you were of the world, the world would love *you as* its own; but because **you are not of the world,** but I chose you out of the world, **because of this the world hates you.\**

**IF** is the 2nd class condition meaning you are probably not!

If you are a Bel you are not of this world.

Many Bels do not like this type of statement but it is truth – If a Bel is comfortable and interacting regularly in the cosmic system, they may be no different then the Unbels they are surrounded by.

You have to take inventory of who you are and what you allow in your life from time to time.

/[Jhn 15:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/15/20/s_1012020) “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well**; if **they followed My word, they will follow yours** also.

Speaking truth (BD) should produce a positive reaction amongst Bels. If it produces strife or adversity perhaps you are not speaking to a Bel.\

Bels need to be prepared for the challenges in their walk with God.

Study the life of the Apostles, study the earthly ministry of TLJC and that will give you an idea of some adversity you may face!

/Bels will not be challenged to suffer every day or face persecution every day. Yet, there has been allotted times we are all scheduled to be tested and challenged - physically, financially and mentally. People testing, system testing and thought testing are very common throughout spiritual growth. These tests are really what push us toward maturity.\

God will not put you through something HE hasn’t prepared you for.

Also something that every other Bel will possibly face and in most cases many other Bels have already faced it!

/1Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and **God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that **you will be able to endure it**.\

Everything we face – temptation, persecution, testing and adversity, GOD has given us what we need prior to the challenge.

HE always gives us answers and solutions before the questions and problems confront us.

The fact is if HE wants us removed from it - He will supply the avenue for escape, if not then we are called to endure it.

SM Bels can endure testing and pass the tests…SM Bels can handle adversity and apply BD as mechanics to endure it.

There is nothing God expects HIS children to endure that He has not given them the solution for. Those who neglect BD and then complain that they can’t handle adversity or testing only have themselves to blame.

Only in the devil’s world does everyone get a trophy!