

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****I THESSALONIANS 3*****I Thessalonians 3***

Chapter two closes with the Apostle Paul telling of his great affection for the followers of Jesus that remained in Thessalonica doing the work of the Lord and faithfully serving. He reminded them of how he longed to be with them, but Satan hindered him from coming back to them. He said, ***"this (hindering) happened time and time again."*** (2:18) He ended by sharing what has been an often quoted verse of missionaries and pastors alike over the course of the last 2000 years. ***"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy."*** (I Thessalonians 2:19-20)

It is often asked, "Can Satan hinder the work of God and cause a delay in best-laid plans?" The answer is, of course. He and his demons are recorded over and over again in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. For example, look at the prophet Daniel 9-10. Daniel, the man greatly beloved by God, prayed for weeks before the answer to his prayers came. When an answer came, it came from the mouth of a high-ranking angel named Gabriel. He told Daniel that he was sent with the

answer to his prayer twenty-one days earlier, but the "Prince of Persia," which is a reference to a ruling demon who evidently was assigned to rule over the pagan Kingdom of Persia during the days of Daniel, had hindered him, fought with him. Gabriel related that he had to ask for Michael, the chief or lead angel in heaven, to come and keep him at bay while he brought the answer from God to Daniel.

When we get to heaven as God's children, I believe we will be astonished if God were to show us all the instances in our lives when there was a demonic hindrance in our way as we served the Lord, especially those who are working as true servants of God, on mission with God. This is another instance when we can see the reality of Proverbs 16:9, ***"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps."*** We must remember that God ultimately rules. Satan cannot overrule the servant of God, but in a limited way. This is why we must be continually filled with God's Spirit to discern His will and His way with us.



ON THE WAY

***Prayer and Action Steps***

*Chapter three is the recounting of how, when Paul was hindered in coming to the Thessalonians, God provided another way for Paul to be refreshed and accomplish his desire to know the welfare of the believers who were "dear to him." Paul began to turn their attention to the coming of Jesus for His own. God wins!*