I THESSALONIANS
Part Twenty Four: “The Christian and Affliction”

I Thessalonians 3:3-4
That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

Lessons on Affliction

a. The potential of affliction.
   ➔ The word affliction is the word θλιψις (thlipsis), meaning “pressure.” It’s first use in the New Testament is in Matthew 13:21, referring to the tribulation that arises in the life of the believer because of the Word.
   1) Affliction has the potential to shake the child of God. That no man should be moved by these afflictions.
   2) Growth in faith protects you against being shaken by affliction. 3:2.

b. Our predisposition for affliction.
   ➔ The believer is appointed for afflictions, and afflictions are appointed for the believer. The word appointed is the word κειμαι (keimai), meaning “to lie outstretched.” It’s usage throughout the New Testament gives enlightenment regarding its meaning.
   Matthew 5:14 - A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
   Luke 2:34 - And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against.
   Matthew 28:6 - He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Each of these uses of the word “keimai,” and many others, refer to Someone/something that is in place where it is supposed to be. This helps us to understand how the believer is appointed to affliction.
c. **Preparation** for affliction.

1) It is our duty to **warn** new believers that affliction is tied to living for God. *For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation*

2) It is our duty to **prepare** younger believers to grow to be ready for that affliction. 3:2.

d. **Perspective** through affliction. *even as it came to pass, and ye know*

1) Enduring affliction increases your **confidence** in godly teachers.
2) Enduring affliction increases your **understanding** of God’s kingdom.
3) Enduring affliction increases your **faith** in God’s sovereignty.

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**Preparation for Prayer**

**Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;