

*P. L. Collins*

### CAUSES FOR CONCERN IN THE CHURCH

Intro--As you look at the ch and fellow bel what gives you cause for concern? Lack of buildings and facilities. Lack of money. Lack of men. When start a mission what concerns your prayer life for that mission. New students in school. Divine pattern in experience of P. Short time at Thess, Acts 17:2; Couldn't go back, peace bond. Concnd about church.

#### I. SUFFERINGS, 2:13-3:4.

*Stress*

##### A. Cause of, 2:14-20.

1. From own countrymen. In Judea true and in Thess from Gentiles. Hate of gospel and truth.
2. From God--fill up sin away, 16--to show evil and therefore righteous punishment.

##### B. Character of, 2:14-20.

1. Death as with X. and prophets.
2. Persecution as with P and Thess.

*Today flattery comes to intellect, business & social position*

##### C. Cure for, 3:1-4.

1. Not relief from. 3:3a. Flattered away from Xnty in (not by) midst of afflictions.
2. Realization they are part of being Xn. Set, 3b. Strong word as Phil 1:17; Mt 5:14. Should, 4. Divinely appointed. Proxy suffering, Eph 3:13.

#### II. SATAN, 3:5

*Rev 2:9 Smyrna 2:13 Pergamum 2:24 Thyatira & deca 7 days*

##### A. ~~Chazaz~~ Devices of Satan. 2:18--hindered Act 17:9

1. Hinders, 2:18. Thru peace bond.
- 2..Tempt. Matt 4. Ptc used as noun bec this is most characteristic of him. Counterfeit.

##### B. Defeat of Satan, 3:11. God make straight path.

- 1 Jn 4:4. Power of indwelling God, X, HS.
- Secret of victory is to realize insuff. of self.

#### III. SHORTCOMINGS, 3:6-13.

*St. Paul*

Intro--6-8. Tim retd with good report. P at Athens, Tim and Silas at Berea and Tim got to Athens 1st. Both met P at Corinth. P discouraged bec 4 failures Phil, Thess, Berea, Athens. Good news, 6, of faith, love, longing to see P. This was life to P, 8, 3 Jn 4. To you? But with all praise he realizes lacks yet.

V10 - 3-4 yrs. before returned to

- A. Cause, 10. Faith means more than first act of believing. Includes life of growth. Commission includes teaching. Natural to have lacks. No finished product until heaven. *Then*
- B. Need katartizo, 10, completion, Matt 4:21 of mending nets, Gal 6:1, Eph 4:12.
- B. Cure, <sup>1</sup>Eph 4:12--thru ministers.
  - 2. Thru prayer, 10
  - 3. Thru God's power, 11.
  - 4. Thru love, 12-13, love with the purpose, 13, hearts est blameless in state of holiness before God with all holy ones.

Note three cures which run throughout chpt. Work of ministers of God, (and ordinary Xns on each other), prayer to God for victory over Satan, and knowledge of truth of God as e.g. v. 3-4. God doesn't get away from these basic and simple things. These ~~lacks~~ dangers should be constant concern and should be alert to the cures.

*growth spirit*

STRESS - Sol:em

- Town intelligent background of Greek
- " Social "
- " studies connection "

SATAN

- Self - How much?
- Stoicism - 1. Ministers
- 2. Love
- 3. Hope of Return

*Cong. DC Salt Lake*  
*Tampa Brad Anthony*  
*Epworth Cove Pin*  
*Cal. Phil Kowal Rose*  
*from Beth Dallas*  
*Midwest San*  
*Redding*  
*Tyson First B.*  
*Lawrence*  
*Em*  
*Emmons (The City) Spring Beach 03*  
*Reiner*  
*Delon Pres.*  
*Am. Amador*  
*Bethany*  
*Calvary*  
*Home 74*