

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM US?
ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE SUFFERING, TO CONTINUE TO OBEY HIS WORD
2 Thessalonians 3:4-5

- I. **WE CAN ONLY OBEY IF WE HAVE A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS: Paul was persuaded in the Lord (not wishful) that these Thessalonians were obeying and would continue to obey his commands (His Word through them) (4)**
 - A. **Paul was sure they were obeying, and they would continue to obey his commands (God's Word) (4a)**

 - B. **Why was Paul convinced? Obedience is one of the identifying marks of true believers (Misc. passages, 1 & 2 Thes., John 15 and 1John 2)**

 - C. **Why does Paul share this at this point? (6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15)**

- II. **WE CAN ONLY OBEY IF WE ABIDE IN JESUS, LOVING AND TRUSTING HIM: Paul thus prays that the Lord would guide their hearts towards the love of God and the endurance of Christ (5)**
 - A. **Obedience to His Word only happens in the context of a heart that truly loves God (5a)**

 - B. **Obedience to His Word happens in the context of the endurance Christ brings as we trust Him (5b)**