

## The First Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians

**1** Paul and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of *the* Thessalonians in God *the* Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace<sup>1</sup>.

**2** We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of *you* in our prayers; **3** remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and <sup>2</sup>patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before <sup>3</sup>our God and Father; **4** knowing, brethren beloved of God, your election, **5** <sup>4</sup>how that our <sup>5</sup>gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in <sup>6</sup>a holy spirit, and *in* much <sup>7</sup>assurance; even as ye know what manner of men we became toward you for your sake. **6** And ye became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of a holy spirit; **7** so that ye became an ensample to all that believe in Macedonia and in Achaia. **8** For from you hath sounded forth the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith toward God is gone forth; so that we need not to speak anything. **9** For they *themselves* report concerning us what manner of entering in we had unto you; and how ye turned unto God from idols, to serve a living and true God, **10** and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, who delivereth us from the wrath to come.

**2** For yourselves, brethren, know our entering in unto you, that it hath not been found vain: **2** but having suffered before and been shamefully treated, as ye know, at Philippi, we waxed bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God in much conflict. **3** For our exhortation *is* not of error, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: **4** but even as we have been approved of God to be entrusted *with* the gospel, so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God who proveth our hearts. **5** For neither at any time were we found using words of flattery, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness, God *is* witness; **6** nor seeking glory of men, neither from you nor from others, when we might have <sup>8</sup>claimed

authority as apostles of Christ. **7** But we were <sup>9</sup>babes in *the* midst of you, as when a nurse cherisheth her own children: **8** even so, being affectionately desirous of you, we were well pleased to impart unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were become very dear to us. **9** For ye remember, brethren, our labor and travail: working night and day, that we might not burden any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. **10** Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and righteously and unblamably we behaved ourselves toward you that believe: **11** as ye know how we *dealt with* each one of you, as a father with his own children, exhorting you, and encouraging *you*, and witnessing, **12** *to the end* that ye should walk worthily of God, who <sup>10</sup>calleth you into his own kingdom and glory.

**13** And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us <sup>11</sup>*the* word of the message, *even the word* of God, ye accepted *it* not *as the* word of men, but, as it is in truth, *the* word of God, which also worketh in you that believe. **14** For ye, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus: for ye also suffered the same things of *your* own countrymen, even as they *did* of the Jews; **15** who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove out us, and please not God, and are contrary to all men; **16** forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved; to fill up their sins always: but the wrath is come upon them to *the* uttermost.

**17** But we, brethren, being bereaved of you for <sup>12</sup>a short season, in *seeing your* face not in heart, endeavored the more exceedingly to see your face with great desire: **18** because we wished to come unto you, and **19** Paul once and again; and Satan hindered us. **19** For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of glorying? *Are* not even ye, before our Lord Jesus in his presence? **20** For ye are our glory and our joy.

**3** Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left behind at Athens alone; **2** and sent Timothy, our brother and <sup>13</sup>God's minister

<sup>1</sup> So B 1739 1881 cop<sup>sa,fay</sup> arm vg. SA I 33 81 and a majority of lesser Gk. mss. (cop<sup>bo</sup>) add from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>2</sup> Or, steadfastness

<sup>3</sup> Or, God and our Father;

<sup>4</sup> Or, because our gospel *etc.*

<sup>5</sup> Gk. good tidings *And so everywhere; see marginal note on Mt 4:23.*

<sup>6</sup> Or, *the* Holy Spirit, *And so in vs. 6.*

<sup>7</sup> Or, fulness;

<sup>8</sup> Or, been burdensome *See vs. 9; cf. 1Co 9:4ff.*

<sup>9</sup> So p<sup>65</sup> SA\*BC\* I cop<sup>bo</sup>. A 1739 33 81 and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop<sup>fay</sup> arm read gentle

<sup>10</sup> So B 1739 33 81 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss. But SA cop<sup>sa,bo,fay</sup> arm vg read called

<sup>11</sup> Gk. a word of hearing, Ga 3:2, 5.

<sup>12</sup> Gk. a season of an hour,

<sup>13</sup> So SA 1739 81 cop<sup>sa,bo,fay</sup> vg. B (33 D\*) almost alone read fellow-worker (with God) A majority of lesser Gk. mss. read God's servant and our fellow-worker in

in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith; 3 that no man be moved by these afflictions; for yourselves know that hereunto we are appointed. 4 For truly, when we were with you, we told you <sup>14</sup>beforehand that we are to suffer affliction; even as it came to pass, and ye know. 5 For this cause I also, when I could no longer forbear, sent that I might know your faith, lest by any means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor should come to be in vain. 6 But when Timothy came even now unto us from you, and brought us glad tidings of your faith and love, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, longing to see us, even as we also to see you; 7 for this cause, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our distress and affliction through your faith: 8 for now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanksgiving can we render again unto God for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face, and may perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

11 Now may <sup>15</sup>our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way unto you: 12 and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we also do toward you; 13 to the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before <sup>16</sup>our God and Father, in the presence of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.<sup>17</sup>

4 Finally then, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as ye received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, even as ye do walk, — that ye abound more and more. 2 For ye know what <sup>18</sup>charge we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication; 4 that each one of you know how to possess himself of his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust, even as the Gentiles who know not God; 6 that no man <sup>19</sup>transgress, and wrong his brother in the matter: because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as also we <sup>20</sup>forewarned you and testified. 7 For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification. 8 Therefore he that rejecteth, rejecteth not man, but God, who giveth his Holy Spirit unto you.

<sup>14</sup> Or, plainly

<sup>15</sup> Or, God himself and our Father

<sup>16</sup> Or, God and our Father

<sup>17</sup> N\* A 81 D\* cop<sup>bo</sup> vg add Amen.

<sup>18</sup> Gk. charges

<sup>19</sup> Or, overreach

<sup>20</sup> Or, told you plainly

9 But concerning love of the brethren ye have no need that one write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another; 10 for indeed ye do it toward all the brethren that are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, that ye abound more and more; 11 and that ye aspire to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your hands, even as we charged you; 12 that ye may walk becomingly toward them that are without, and may have need of nothing.

13 But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep <sup>21</sup>in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the presence of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a <sup>22</sup>shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; 17 afterwards we that are alive, that are left, shall <sup>23</sup>together with them be caught up in the clouds, to a meeting with the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore <sup>24</sup>comfort one another with these words.

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that aught be written unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you <sup>25</sup>as a thief: 5 for ye are all sons of light, and sons of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep, as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep do sleep in the night; and they that are drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, since we are of the day, be sober, putting on a breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God appointed us not unto wrath, but unto the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that, whether we watch or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore

<sup>21</sup> Gk. through Or, will God through Jesus bring

<sup>22</sup> Lit. shout of command, like a coxswain's call to the rowers. Compare with the shout in Josh 6:16.

<sup>23</sup> Gk. αμα, hama, together as in ch. 5:10.

<sup>24</sup> Or, exhort ch. 5:11.

<sup>25</sup> BA virtually alone read as thieves are overtaken:

<sup>26</sup>exhort one another, and build each other up, even as also ye do.

12 But we beseech you, brethren, to know them that labor among you, and are over you in *the* Lord, and admonish you; 13 and to esteem them exceedingly highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all. 15□See that none render unto any one evil for evil; but always follow after that which is good, even toward one another, and toward all. 16 Rejoice always; 17□pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks: for this *is the* will of God in Christ Jesus toward you. 19□Quench not the spirit; 20 despise not prophesyings; 21□but prove all things; hold fast that *which is* good; 22□abstain from every form of evil.

23 And the God of peace *himself* sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who will also do *it*.

25 Brethren, pray also for us.

26 Salute all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27□I□adjure you *by* the Lord that *this* epistle be read unto all the <sup>27</sup>brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you.<sup>28</sup>

*End of the First Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians*

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<sup>26</sup> *Or*, comfort ch. 4:18.

<sup>27</sup> *So* N\*B D cop<sup>sa</sup>. *But* p<sup>46vid</sup> A 1739 33 81 *and the majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop<sup>bo</sup> arm vg *add* holy

<sup>28</sup> *So* B 1739\* 33 D\* cop<sup>sa</sup>. NA 81 *and the majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop<sup>bo</sup> arm vg *add* Amen.