

The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the
Thessalonians

¹ Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²We are giving thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers ³incessantly, remembering your work of belief, and the toiling of devotion, and the endurance of the anticipation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, ⁴having known, brethren having been loved by God, your selection. ⁵Because our good message didn't come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much full assurance, just as you have known of what kind of men we were among you for you. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the Word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became examples to all those believing in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸For from you the word of the Lord has resounded, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but also in every place, your belief toward God has gone forth so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹For they themselves report about us what kind of entrance we had toward you and how you turned toward God from the idols to be a slave to the living and true God ¹⁰and to expect His Son from the heavens, Whom He raised from the dead – Jesus – the One delivering us from the coming wrath.

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¹For you yourselves have known, brethren, our entrance toward you, that it has not come to be vain. ²But previously suffering and being insultingly treated in Philippi, just as you have known, we were bold in our God to speak to you the good message of God in much conflict. ³For our encouragement was not from error, nor from uncleanness, nor in deceit, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the good message, thus we are speaking, not as pleasing men, but God, Who is testing our hearts.

⁵For never were we using a word of flattery, just as you have known, nor in pretext of covetousness – God is witness – ⁶nor seeking glory from men, neither from you or from others, being able to carry weight as apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother might cherish her own children. ⁸Thus longing for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the good message of God, but also our own souls, because you had become loved by us. ⁹For remember, brethren, our toil and labor; for night and day we were working so as not to burden any of you. We proclaimed to you the good message from God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God, how ethically, and justly, and blamelessly we were to you believers, ¹¹as indeed you have known how we were encouraging each one of you, and comforting and testifying as a father to his own children, ¹²for your walking worthily of God Who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

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¹³ Because of this we also are giving thanks to God incessantly that receiving a word of God (hearing it from us), you received not a word of men, but just as it is truly: a word from God, which also is working in you, the believers. ¹⁴ For you became imitators, brethren, of the assemblies of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus, because you also suffered the same by your countrymen, just as also they by the Jews, ¹⁵ those also killing the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and persecuting us, and not pleasing God, and are against all men, ¹⁶ impeding us from speaking to the nations so that they might be saved, so as to always fill up their sins. But wrath came upon them for an end.

¹⁷ But we, brethren, being bereaved from you for a time – an hour – in presence, not in heart, were all the more diligent to see your face with much desire. ¹⁸ Therefore we wanted to come to you – indeed, I Paul, both once and twice – and the adversary hindered us. ¹⁹ For what is our expectation or joy or victor's crown of boasting? Is it not even you before our Lord Jesus in His presence? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

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¹ Therefore, no longer enduring it, we were well-pleased to be left behind in Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother, and servant of God, and our co-worker in the good message of the Christ toward your stability and to encourage you concerning your belief, ³ that no one be disturbed in these afflictions. For you yourselves have known that we are appointed for this. ⁴ For even when we were with you we were telling you in advance that we were about to be afflicted, just as also it happened and you have known. ⁵ Because of this, I also no longer enduring it, sent in order to know your belief, lest somehow the tempter tempted you and our toil might come to be in vain.

⁶ But now, Timothy coming to us from you and bringing a good report to us: your belief, and devotion, and that you are always having good memories of us, longing to see us, as indeed also we you, ⁷ because of this we were encouraged, brethren, concerning you in all our affliction and distress, by your belief. ⁸ Because now we are living if you are standing in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanksgiving are we able to render to God concerning you for all the joy with which we are rejoicing because of you before our God, ¹⁰ by night and day exceedingly praying so as to see your face and to rectify the shortcomings of your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus Christ make our way straight to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in the devotion for one another and for all, as indeed also we for you, ¹³ for the stability of your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His holy ones.

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¹ Finally then, brethren, we are asking of you and we are encouraging in the Lord Jesus, that just as you received from us as to how it is necessary for you to be walking and to be pleasing to God, you should abound more. ² For you have known what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is a desire of God: your holiness, for you to abstain from fornication, ⁴ that each of you are knowing to be possessing his own vessel in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in passion of craving, as also the

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nations who do not know God, ⁶ so as not to trespass and violate his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger concerning all these things, just as also we told you previously and thoroughly testified. ⁷ For God didn't call us for uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Consequently, the one rejecting this is not rejecting a man, but God, Who is also giving His Holy Spirit to us.

⁹ Now concerning brotherly love, you don't have need for me to write to you, for you yourselves are God-taught to be devoted to one another. ¹⁰ For indeed, you are doing it toward all the brethren which are in the whole of Macedonia. But we are encouraging you, brethren, to be abounding more, ¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to take care of your own affairs, and to be working with your own hands, just as you were instructed ¹² in order that you may walk with integrity toward those outside and may be having need of nothing.

¹³ Now we are not desiring you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those having fallen asleep, that you not be sorrowful, as also the rest, who are not having expectation. ¹⁴ For if we are believing that Jesus died and rose, thus also God will, through Jesus, bring with Him those who sleep. ¹⁵ For this we are saying to you in a word of the Lord, that we (those living and remaining to the presence of the Lord) will by no means precede those who sleep. ¹⁶ Because the Lord Himself with an acclamation, with archangel voice, and with a trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are living and remaining will be snatched up together with them in clouds for a meeting of the Lord in the air. And thus we will be with the Lord always.

¹⁸ So then, be encouraging one another in these words.

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¹ But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you aren't having need for anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves have known accurately that the day of the Lord is so coming: as a thief in the night. ³ For when they are saying, "Peace and security!" then sudden destruction presents itself to them, just as the labor pains to her who is pregnant. And they will certainly not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, aren't in darkness, so that the day should apprehend you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of day. We aren't of night nor of darkness. ⁶ So then, may we not be sleeping, as also the rest, but may we be awake and sober. ⁷ For those sleeping are sleeping at night, and those being drunk are being drunk at night. ⁸ But we, being of day, may we be sober, clothing ourselves with a breastplate of belief and devotion and a helmet, an expectation of salvation. ⁹ Because God didn't appoint us to wrath, but to possession of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ He having died in our behalf, so that whether we are awake or sleeping, we may live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore be encouraging one another, and be edifying one on one, just as also you are doing.

¹² Now we are requesting of you, brethren, to be knowing those toiling among you, and themselves leading you in the Lord and warning you, ¹³ and to esteem them exceedingly highly in devotion because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴ Now we are encouraging you, brethren, be admonishing those out of order, be comforting those small-souled, be supporting the weak, be patient toward all. ¹⁵ See to it that none repay bad for bad to anyone, but always be pursuing the good both to one another and to all. ¹⁶ Be rejoicing always. ¹⁷ Be praying unceasingly. ¹⁸ In everything be

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giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Don't quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Don't be despising prophecies; ²¹ but be testing all things. Be holding firmly to the good. ²² Be abstaining from every sighting of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself consecrate you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be guarded blameless in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is the One having called you, Who also will do this.

²⁵ Brethren, be praying concerning us.

²⁶ Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

²⁷ I am charging you in the Lord to have this letter read to all the holy brethren.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you. Amen.