

1 Thessalonians

1 Paul and Silas and Timothy, to the congregation of the Thessalonians, in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

²Always we thank God for every one of you, making mention of you in our prayers, ³remembering your work of faith, and labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, ⁴knowing, brothers, beloved of God, that you are chosen people.

⁵Our gospel did not come to you in speech only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance, even as you know what kind of men we were among you, for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the message with much suffering, in the joy of the Holy Spirit.

⁷You became an example to all those who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸The message of the Lord has sounded out from you, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹They themselves are reporting what kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

2 Brothers, you yourselves know that our entrance among you was not in vain. ²After we had suffered, and had been violently abused, at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak his gospel to you in severe anguish. ³We did not appeal to you deceptively, or impurely, or dishonestly; ⁴but, as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, who is testing our hearts.

⁵We did not come to you with flattering speech, as you know, or under a cover of greed, God is witness; ⁶we did not seek praise from

men, either from you or from others, ⁷though we could have been burdensome as Christ's messengers. Instead, we were gentle in your midst, as a nurse caring for her own children. ⁸Since we have such a kindly feeling for you, we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God, but ourselves also, because you became very precious to us.

⁹You remember, brothers, our labor and wearisome toil, working night and day, not to burden any of you, we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You and God are witnesses how holy and upright and unblamable we were among you who believe. ¹¹You know how we worked with each one of you, as a father with his own children, ¹²encouraging you, and comforting, and testifying, that you should walk worthily of the God who called you into his own kingdom and splendor.

¹³We thank God constantly that, when you received God's message, which you heard from us, you received it not as a human message, but as it really is, God's message, which works in you who believe. ¹⁴You became imitators, brothers, of God's congregations in Christ Jesus which are in Judea, because you suffered the same things by your own countrymen, as they did by the Jews. ¹⁵They killed both the Lord Jesus, and the prophets, and persecuted us harshly. They displease God, and are opposed to all men, ¹⁶forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved. They always fill up the measure of their sins, and wrath has at last come on them.

¹⁷Brothers, though we have been separated from you for a time (in face, not in heart), we have striven more diligently with intense desire to see your face; ¹⁸we wanted to come to you (I, Paul, indeed more than once), and Satan hindered us. ¹⁹What is our hope or joy or crown of exultation before our Lord Jesus at his coming? ²⁰Is it not you? You are our glory and joy.

3 Therefore, when we could hold off no longer, we thought it good to be left alone in Athens, ²and sent Timothy, our brother and God's

fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and to encourage you in your faith, ³that no one be shaken by these troubles. You yourselves know that we are appointed for such, ⁴for even when we were with you, we were telling you beforehand that we were to be troubled, even as it happened, and you know.

⁵Consequently, when I could hold off no longer, I sent to know your faith, whether perhaps the tempter had tempted you, and our labor had been in vain. ⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought the good news to us of your faith and love, and that you have a fond remembrance of us always, yearning to see us, even as we also you; ⁷for this reason we were encouraged, brothers, about you, in our every trial and trouble, by your faith. ⁸Now we live if you stand fast in the Lord. ⁹What thanks can we render to God concerning you, for all our rejoicing because of you before our God, ¹⁰fervently praying night and day to see your face, and to complete the things lacking in your faith?

¹¹May our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make your love for one another, and for all, to increase and overflow, even as ours for you, ¹³that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints, amen.

4 Finally, brothers, as you received from us how you must walk and please God, even as you are walking, we ask and implore you in the Lord Jesus that you abound even more. ²You know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³This is God's will, even your dedication, that you abstain from fornication; ⁴that each one of you may know how to gain control over his own body in dedication and honor; ⁵not in passion of lust, even as the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶not in wronging and taking advantage of a brother in the matter. We told you before, and warned, that the Lord is the avenger in all these things. ⁷God has not called us into impurity, but in holiness. ⁸Therefore, he who

rejects, does not reject man, but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need that anyone should write to you, for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another, ¹⁰and indeed you are doing it toward all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, that you abound even more. ¹¹Also, make it your aim to live quietly, and to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, even as we charged you, ¹²that you may walk becomingly among those outside, and may need nothing.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are sleeping, that you not be grieved as the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴If we believe that Jesus died and arose, so also God will bring with him the ones who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵This we say to you by the Lord's instruction: we who are living, who remain until the Lord comes, will by no means go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶The Lord himself, with a shouted command, at the archangel's voice and God's trumpet, will come down from heaven, and the dead ones in Christ will arise first. ¹⁷Then we who are living, the ones who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord! ¹⁸Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

5 Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you do not need that anything be written to you, ²for you yourselves well know that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. ³When they are saying, "Peace and safety," then destruction comes on them suddenly, as birth pains to a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape.

⁴But you, brothers, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief, ⁵for all of you are children of light and children of day; we are neither of the night, nor of the darkness. ⁶Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest, but let us stay awake, and remain alert. ⁷They who sleep, sleep at night; and they who are drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be self-controlled, having put on the breastplate of

faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹God has not destined us for wrath, but for the gaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. ¹¹Therefore, encourage one another, and build each other up, even as also you are doing.

¹²Now we ask you, brothers, to recognize those who labor among you, and rule over you in the Lord, and warn you. ¹³Esteem them very highly in love because of their work, and be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we beg you, brothers, to warn the disorderly, encourage the despondent, support the weak, and be patient with all. ¹⁵See that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always seek that which is good, both for one another, and for all.

¹⁶Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray constantly. ¹⁸Give thanks in everything, because this is God's will in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰Do not count inspired messages as nothing. ²¹Test everything, and hold fast to what is good. ²²Turn away from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself completely set you apart, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept unblamable for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who has called you is dependable, and he will do it.

²⁵Brothers, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all the brothers with a sacred kiss. ²⁷I am putting you under oath before the Lord, that this letter be read to all the brothers. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.