

The first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

^{1:1}Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the gathering of the called-out ones of the Thessalonians in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus the Anointed One: May you have grace and peace. ^{1:2}We always give thanks to God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. ^{1:3}We *also* continually remember your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus the Anointed One before our God and Father.

^{1:4}We know, brethren, beloved of God, that he has chosen you ^{1:5}because our message of good news came to you not only in words, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.

You know very well how we conducted ourselves for your benefit when we were among you. ^{1:6}And you became imitators of us, even of the Lord, welcoming the word in much affliction, *yet* with the joy of the Holy Spirit ^{1:7}*so much so* that you became an example to all *those* who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia.

^{1:8}For from you the word of the Lord has been spread abroad, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith towards God has been talked about so much that we don't need to say anything.

^{1:9}For they themselves report how it was when we came to you: how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ^{1:10}and to wait for his Son from the heavens whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, the One who is rescuing us from the coming wrath.

CHAPTER 2

^{2:1}For you know brethren, concerning our coming to you, that it has not been futile. ^{2:2}But having suffered before

and having been shamefully treated at Philippi (as you know), we became even bolder in our God to speak the good news of God to you in the face of great opposition.

^{2:3}For our appeal to you was not based on error, nor did it involve any immoral behavior nor any kind of deceit. ^{2:4}But seeing that we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the good news, this is the way we speak, not as pleasing men but pleasing God who tests our hearts.

^{2:5}For we were never at any time found to be using flattery to try to convince you, as you know; nor were we subtly trying to get your money, God is our witness; ^{2:6}nor were we seeking honor from men, neither from you nor from others, even when we could have tried to impress you as being “sent ones” of the Anointed One.

^{2:7}But we were gentle *while* among you like a nursing mother who carefully cares for her own children. ^{2:8}Our concern for you was so great that we were even willing to give you not only the good news message from God but also our own souls because you had become very dear to us.

^{2:9}For you remember brethren our labor and strenuous toil, how we worked day and night so that we would not be a *financial* burden to any of you. This is how we proclaimed the good news of God to you. ^{2:10}You and God are witnesses of how holily, righteously, and blamelessly we behaved ourselves toward you who are believing.

^{2:11}You know how we treated each one of you like a father treats his own children, exhorting you, encouraging you, and testifying to you ^{2:12}that you should conduct your lives in a way which is appropriate for someone whom God has invited into his own kingdom and glory.

^{2:13}For this reason we also thank God without ceasing that when you heard the word of God from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as it truly is: the word of God, which also is working in you who are believing.

^{2:14}For you, brethren, became imitators of the gatherings of the called-out ones of God which are in Judea in the Anointed One, Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews. ^{2:15}These are the ones who killed both the Lord Jesus and

the prophets and also drove us out. They are not pleasing to God and are hostile towards everyone. ^{2:16}They are even trying to keep us from speaking to the nations so that they may be being saved. By so doing, they are constantly filling up the measure of their sins. But wrath will come upon them in the end.

^{2:17}But we brethren – being taken away from you for a short time and being physically absent but not absent in heart – we really wanted to come back and see you face to face. ^{2:18}We did, in fact, try to come back to you. I, Paul, tried several times but Satan hindered us.

^{2:19}For what is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing? Isn't it you *when we are together* in the presence our Lord Jesus at his coming? ^{2:20}For you are our glory and our joy.

CHAPTER 3

^{3:1}Therefore, when we couldn't wait any longer we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone. ^{3:2}So we sent Timothy, our brother and co-worker together with God in the message of the good news about the Anointed One, to strengthen you and to comfort you in your faith. ^{3:3}We didn't want anyone to be upset by our suffering because you know that this is our destiny.

^{3:4}For truly, when we were with you we forewarned you that we were going to suffer affliction. And as you know, it happened. ^{3:5}For this reason also, when I couldn't stand to wait any longer, I sent *someone* so that I might find out about your faith – if by some means the tempter had tempted you and our work there would have been in vain.

^{3:6}But when Timothy came back to us from you, he brought us good news about your faith and love, saying that you always have good memories about us and that you even long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

^{3:7}Because of this, brethren, we were comforted about you in the middle all our distress and affliction by hearing about your faith. ^{3:8}For now our life has meaning if you stand fast in the Lord. ^{3:9}How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in his presence concerning you?

^{3:10}We are earnestly praying day and night that we may see you again and take care of anything which might be lacking in your faith. ^{3:11}Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way back to you.

^{3:12}And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love toward each other and toward all men, just as we also abound in love toward you. ^{3:13}In this way he can establish your hearts *to be* irreproachable in holiness *when you stand* before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.

CHAPTER 4

^{4:1}Finally then, brethren, we plead with you and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how to live in a way that pleases God (just as you are doing now) that you continue to do so even more. ^{4:2}For you know the instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ^{4:3}For this is the will of God: your being made holy.

I want to emphasize specifically that you abstain from sex outside of the marriage bond. ^{4:4}Each one of you must know how to act with respect to his own body in holiness and honor, ^{4:5}not in the passion of carnal desire like the Gentiles who don't know God.

^{4:6}No one should go beyond *God's limits*, fraudulently using his brother or sister *for their own pleasure*, because the Lord is the one who will take revenge *on the offenders* concerning all these things about which we already warned you and solemnly testified. ^{4:7}For God has not called us to contaminate ourselves *with sexual activities outside of marriage* but to holiness.

^{4:8}Therefore, he who rejects this *teaching* does not reject mere human opinion but rejects God who has given us his Holy Spirit.

^{4:9}But concerning the love of the brethren, you don't need anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love each other. ^{4:10}And in fact, you practice this with respect to all the brethren who are in all of Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, that you do so more and more.

^{4:11}Also, you make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your hands just as we instructed you. ^{4:12}This is so that your life would be attractive to outsiders and also so that you would not be in need of anything.

^{4:13}But we don't want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have "fallen asleep" {died} so that you don't grieve like the other people who have no hope. ^{4:14}For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring those who have "fallen asleep" in Jesus with him *when he returns*.

^{4:15}We say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain here until the coming of the Lord will in no way arrive ahead of those who have fallen asleep {died}.

^{4:16}For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shouted command from an archangel and with the *sounding of the trumpet* of God. *At that moment*, the dead in the Anointed One will resurrect first, ^{4:17}and then we who are alive and are still here will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ^{4:18}Therefore, comfort each other with these words.

CHAPTER 5

^{5:1}But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you don't need anything to be written to you. ^{5:2}For you know perfectly well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ^{5:3}But just when they are laying out* *their plans* for peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman and there will be no way to escape.

^{5:4}But you, brethren, are not in darkness so that that day would surprise you like a thief. ^{5:5}For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ^{5:6}So then let us not "sleep" *spiritually* as many do, but let us be watchful and be sober. ^{5:7}For those

*The Greek work here is "lego" which can also be translated "lull to sleep." Therefore, this verse could possibly read: "But just when everyone is lulled to sleep by peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them..."

who sleep, sleep during the night and those who are drunk are drunk at night.

^{5:8}But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ^{5:9}For God has not appointed us to suffer *his* wrath but *instead* to be taking possession of *our ongoing* salvation through our Lord Jesus the Anointed One ^{5:10}who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we would share *God's* life together with him.

^{5:11}Therefore, exhort one another and build each other up just as you also are doing.

^{5:12}But we plead with you, brethren, to recognize those who are tirelessly working among you, caring for you in the Lord, and advising you. ^{5:13}Have a high regard for them in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

^{5:14}And we exhort you, brethren, admonish those who are doing nothing, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with everyone. ^{5:15}See that no one repays someone who wrongs them with another wrong. Instead, always follow after that which is good toward each other and toward all.

^{5:16}Always rejoice; ^{5:17}pray without ceasing; ^{5:18}give thanks in every *circumstance*, for this is the will of God in the Anointed One, Jesus, for you. ^{5:19}Don't quench the Spirit. ^{5:20}Don't despise prophesyings. ^{5:21}Test all things and hold tightly to that which is good. ^{5:22}Refrain from practicing any form of evil.

^{5:23}And may the God of peace himself make you completely holy, and may your whole spirit, *entire* soul, and *whole* body be found without any faults *at all* in the presence of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One. ^{5:24}He who called you is faithful. *It is he* who will also do this.

^{5:25}Brethren, pray for us. ^{5:26}Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. ^{5:27}I direct you by the Lord to read this letter to all the brethren. ^{5:18}*May* the grace of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One be with you.