

The First Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians

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

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, mentioning *you* in our prayers, ³continually remembering before our God and Father your work prompted by faith, and labor prompted by love, and patience prompted by hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we have come to know, brothers loved by God, that you were chosen, ⁵because our Good News did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in holy spirit, and *in* much assurance, even as you have come to know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word with joy of *the* holy spirit, *despite being* in severe affliction, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith toward God has gone forth into every place, so that we do not need to say anything. ⁹For they

themselves openly declare about us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from the heavens, whom he raised out from the dead, *even* Jesus, our Deliverer from the coming wrath.

2 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²On the contrary, after having suffered and having been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the Good News of God in the midst of great opposition. ³For our appeal is not out of error, nor out of impure motives, nor *made* in deceit, ⁴but just as we have been tested and approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News, so we are speaking *it*, not to please men but God, the one testing our hearts.

⁵For we never used flattering speech, as you know, nor had greed as a motive (God is *our* witness), ⁶nor were we seeking glory from men, neither from you nor from others. Although we were able to have imposed our weight as apostles of Christ, ⁷instead we were gentle *when* in the midst of you, as when a nursing mother cares for her own children. ⁸So, having a great affection for you, we were pleased to share with you not only the Good News of God but also our own souls,

because you had become so beloved to us. ⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and hardship. Working night and day in order that we might not burden any of you, we preached to you the Good News of God.

¹⁰You are witnesses and God also, how purely and righteously and blamelessly we conducted ourselves among you who believe. ¹¹For you know how we *dealt with* each one of you, as a father with his own children, ¹²encouraging you, and comforting *you*, and urging that you walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God for this: that when you received the word of God you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brothers, became imitators of the congregations of God in Judea that are in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and are not pleasing to God, and hostile to all mankind, ¹⁶hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they might be saved. As a result, they have constantly been filling up the measure of their sins. The wrath *of God* has come upon them at last!

¹⁷But we, brothers, being orphaned from you for a period of time (in face, not in heart), were all the more eager to see your face—in a state of great desire—¹⁸because we wanted to come to you (even I, Paul, again and again) but the Adversary prevented us. ¹⁹For who is our hope, or joy, or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.

3 Therefore, when we could bear *it* no longer, we thought it best to remain behind in Athens alone, ²and sent Timothy, our brother and coworker for God in the Good News of Christ, to establish you and to encourage *you* concerning your faith, ³so that no one is shaken by these afflictions, for you know that these are bound to come to us. ⁴For even when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction, just as it came to pass, and you know. ⁵That is why, I too, when I could bear *it* no longer, sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

⁶But Timothy has just now come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think of us with affection, longing to see us, just as we also *long to see* you. ⁷Because of this, brothers, in all our

distress and affliction we have been encouraged about you on account of your faith. ⁸For now we live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹For what thanks are we able to give back to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we implore *God* most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all men, just as we also do for you, ¹³to the end he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father in the presence of our Lord Jesus with all his holy *ones*.

4 Finally then, brothers, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you must walk and please God—as indeed you are walking—that you excel even more. ²For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each one of you know how to take his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God, ⁶and that no one

overstep proper boundaries and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, even as we told you before and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God did not call us for impurity, but to sanctification. ⁸Therefore, the one who rejects *this*, does not reject man but God, who gives his holy spirit to you.

⁹Now concerning brotherly affection, you have no need *for anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. ¹⁰For indeed, that is what you are doing for all the brothers in the whole *region* of Macedonia. And we urge you, brothers, to excel even more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a peaceable life and to attend to your own business, and to work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹²so that you may walk properly with respect to those who are outside and may have need of nothing.

¹³Now, we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, in order that you will not grieve like the rest of *mankind*, who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring *from the grave* those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not

precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, for a meeting with the Lord in the air, and in this manner we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸So then, encourage one another with these words.

5 But concerning the times and dates, brothers, you have no need that anything be written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they are saying, "Peace and safety," then ruin will suddenly come upon them, as labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will surely not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in darkness that the Day should overtake you as a thief, ⁵for you are all sons of light, and sons of *the* day. We are not of *the* night, nor of darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be sleeping as are the rest, but let us be awake and be clear-minded. ⁷For those who are sleeping, sleep in the night and those who get drunk, are drunk in the night. ⁸But let us, since we are of the day, be clear-minded, putting on a breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of

salvation. ⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died in our place so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.

¹²Now we ask you, brothers, to give recognition to those who labor among you and are leading you in the Lord and are admonishing you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly, in love, because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴Now we urge you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be longsuffering with everyone. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always diligently pursue what is good for one another and for everyone.

¹⁶Rejoice always; ¹⁷pray without ceasing; ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the spirit.

²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt, ²¹but test everything *and* hold fast to what is good. ²²Stay away from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept without blame until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴Faithful is he who calls you, who will also do it.

²⁵Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. ²⁷I put 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.

