The Second Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

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

We are obligated to always give thanks to God for all of you, brothers, as it is fitting, because your trust is growing abundantly, and the love of each one of you all toward one another is increasing.

Therefore, we ourselves boast about you in the congregations of God concerning your perseverance and trust in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring, which are a clear indication of the righteous judgment of God: that you are counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you also are suffering. For indeed, it is a righteous thing with God to repay with affliction those who are afflicting you, and to give relief to you who are being afflicted, as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his powerful angels, in flaming fire inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty: cut off forever from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his strength, when he comes to be glorified by his holy ones, and to be marveled at by all those who believed (this includes you because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

And in view of this we always pray for you, that our God will count you worthy of your calling and, by his power, fulfill every desire for goodness and every work of trust, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken from your state of mind, nor be troubled; either by a spirit, or by a spoken message, or by a letter as if from us, to the effect that the Day of the Lord has come. Do not let anyone deceive you by any means, for it will not come, except the apostasy come first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of...
destruction, he who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the sanctuary of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I used to tell you these things? And you know what is now holding him back, so that he will be revealed when his time comes. For the sacred secret of lawlessness is already at work, only there is one now holding things back until taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill by the spirit from his mouth, and bring to nothing his operations by the glorious appearance of his coming.

The coming of the lawless one is by virtue of, and in accord with, the working of the Adversary with all kinds of power and signs and lying wonders, and with every kind of unrighteous deception for those who are destroying themselves because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. And because of this God sends them a deluding influence so they believe a lie. The result of this is that all the ones who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness, will be judged.

But we are obligated to give thanks to God always for you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved by holiness produced by the spirit and belief in the truth. He called you to this through our Good News, so you can obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So then, brothers, stand firm, and hold on to the traditions that you were taught by us, whether by spoken word or letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father (who loved us, and by grace gave us Age-abiding encouragement and a good hope) encourage and establish your hearts in every good work and word.

Chapter 3

Finally, brothers, keep praying for us, so that the word of the Lord continues to run swiftly and be glorified, just as it did among you, and pray so that we are delivered from unreasonable and wicked people, for not everyone has trust. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the Wicked One. And we have confidence concerning you in the Lord, that you both are doing and will continue to do the things that we
are commanding. 5 Now may the Lord guide your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who walks disorderly, and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how it is necessary to imitate us. For we were not disorderly among you, 8 nor did we eat bread from anyone without paying for it, but in labor and hardship we kept working night and day in order not to burden any of you. 9 Not because we do not have authority, but so that we could give ourselves as a pattern for you to imitate us. 10 And indeed, when we were with you we used to give you this command: “If anyone is not willing to work, neither let him eat.”

11 For we hear that some among you are walking disorderly, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now we who are in the Lord Jesus Christ command and exhort such people to be busy working in a quiet fashion, and to eat their own bread.

13 But as for you, brothers, do not grow weary doing what is right. 14 But if anyone does not obey our word in this letter, take note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he is put to shame. 15 And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

17 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter; this is the way I write. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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