

The First Epistle of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

He thanks God for them: that they are so steadfast in faith and good works, and that they receive the gospel with such earnestness.

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

²We give God thanks always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers without ceasing, ³and call to remembrance your work in the faith and labour in love, and perseverance in the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of God our father, ⁴because we know, brethren beloved of God, that you are elect. ⁵For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and also in the Holy Spirit and in much certainty, as you know how we conducted ourselves among you for your sakes. ⁶And you became followers of us and of the Lord, and received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you were an example to all who believe in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord sounded out from you – not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but the faith that you have in God went abroad in all quarters so greatly that it is not necessary for us to say anything at all. ⁹For people themselves bring word of you: what kind of entry we had in to you, and how you turned to God from images to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to look for his son from heaven, whom he raised from death; I mean Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Ac 17:1-4

Chapter 2

Paul reminds them of the godly life he led among them when he preached the gospel to them, thanks God that they receive his word so fruitfully, and explains his absence.

For you yourselves know, brethren, of our coming to you, that it was not in vain. ²But even after we had suffered before and been shamefully treated at Philippi (as you well know), then we had courage in our God to speak to you the gospel of God, with much striving. ³Our exhortation was not to bring you to error, nor yet to uncleanness. Neither was it with guile. ⁴But as we were approved by God to have the gospel committed to us, thus we speak – not as though we intended to please men, but God who tries our hearts. ⁵Neither were we among you at any time with flattering words, as you well know, nor in cloaked covetousness – God is witness.

Ac 16:22-24

⁶Nor did we seek praise from men: not from you, nor yet from any others, when we might have imposed ourselves upon you as the apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were tender among you; even as a nurse-mother cherishes her children, ⁸such was our affection toward you. Our good pleasure was to have given you not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear to us.

*A sure token of a true apostle.

⁹You remember, brethren, our labour and travail. For we laboured day and night because we did not want to be burdensome to any of you,* and preached to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, how holily and justly and blamelessly we conducted ourselves among you who believe; ¹¹as you know how we exhorted and comforted and implored every one of you, like a father his children, ¹²to walk worthy of God, who has called you to his kingdom and glory.

Ac 20:33-35
2Th 3:7-10

¹³We thank God without ceasing, because when you received from us the word with which God was preached, you received it not as the word of man, but even as it was indeed: the word of God, which works in you who believe. ¹⁴For you brethren took after the congregations of God in Judea that are in Christ Jesus, for you have suffered similar things from your kinsmen as we ourselves have suffered from the Jews. ¹⁵Just as they killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, so have they persecuted us. And they do not please God, and are contrary to all mankind. ¹⁶And they forbid us to preach to the Gentiles so that they might be saved, to fulfill their sins always. For the wrath of God has come on them, even to the utmost.

¹⁷But since, brethren, we have been kept from you for a season, as to bodily presence but not in the heart, we tried all the more to see you personally, with great desire. ¹⁸And therefore we would have gone to you – I, Paul, time and again – but Satan withstood us. ¹⁹For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? ²⁰Yes, you are our pride and joy.

Chapter 3

He tells them how greatly he was moved with joy when Timothy told him of their faith and love.

So since we could bear it no longer, it pleased us to remain at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and servant of God and our labour-fellow in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and to comfort you over your faith, ³so that no one would be moved in these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴For even when I was with you I warned that we would suffer tribulation, just as it came to pass and as you know. ⁵For this reason, when I could no longer bear it, I sent to find out about your faith, lest perhaps the tempter had tempted you and our labour had been bestowed in vain.

⁶But now lately Timothy has come from you to us, and shared with us

about your faith and your love, and how you have good remembrance of us always, wanting to see us as we want to see you. ⁷Therefore, brethren, we had consolation in you, in all our adversity and need, through your faith. ⁸For now we are alive, if you stand steadfast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanks we can render to God for you, for all the joy that we have because of you before our God, ¹⁰while we pray greatly night and day that we may see you personally and may make up that which is lacking in your faith.

¹¹May God himself, our father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, guide our journey to you. ¹²And may the Lord prosper you, and make you flow over in love one toward another and toward all men, even as we do toward you, ¹³to make your hearts constant and blameless in holiness before God our father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Chapter 4

He exhorts them to steadfastness, to keep themselves from sin and unclean conduct, and to love one another. He rebukes idleness and speaks of the resurrection.

Furthermore we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, to progress more and more in the way you have received from us, as to how you ought to walk and to please God. ²You remember what commandments we gave you in our Lord Jesus Christ. ³For it is the will of God that you be holy: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴that every one of you should know how to keep his vessel in holiness and honour, ⁵and not in the sensuality of lust as the heathen do, who do not know God; ⁶that no man go too far and defraud his brother in bargaining. For the Lord is an avenger of all such things, as we have warned you and testified. ⁷For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness. ⁸Whoever therefore disregards this disregards not man, but God who has sent his Holy Spirit among you.

Ro 12
Eph 5:1-7

⁹But concerning brotherly love, you do not need me to write to you. For you are taught by God to love one another. ¹⁰Yea, and this you do, showing love to all the brethren who are throughout all Macedonia. We beseech you, brethren, to progress more and more, ¹¹and to study to be quiet and mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we told you, ¹²so that you may conduct yourselves honourably* toward those who are outside, and so that you lack for nothing.

Joh 13:34;
15:12.
Ph'p 1:9
1Jo 2:10;
4:7.

[Honourably: so must we behave, even when we are dishonoured in the world]

¹³I would not, brethren, have you be ignorant concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow like others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so then also those who sleep in Jesus, God will bring again with him. ¹⁵And this we say to you in the word of the Lord: that we who live and are remaining at the coming of the Lord will not go before those who sleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout and with the call of the archangel and the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will arise first. ¹⁷Then we who

1Co 15:52

live and remain will be caught up with them also in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Chapter 5

He speaks of the day of doom and coming of the Lord.
He exhorts them to watch, and to have regard for those
who preach God's word among them.

Of the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need for me to write to you. ²For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come even as a thief in the night. ³When people say peace and no danger, then comes sudden destruction on them, as the travailing of a woman with child, and they will not escape.

2Pe 3:10
Rev 3:3;
16:15.

⁴But you brethren are not in darkness, that that day should come on you like a thief. ⁵You are all the children of light and the children of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep in the night, and those who are drunk, are drunk in the night.* ⁸But let us, who are of the day be sober, armed with the breastplate of faith and love and with the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by the means of our Lord Jesus Christ ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we will live together with him. ¹¹Therefore comfort yourselves together, and strengthen one another, even as you do.

Isa 59:17
Eph 6:10-17

[The night of unbelief and false teaching makes drunk (Isa 29:9) and causes to stumble (Joh 11:10)]

¹²We beseech you, brethren, to have regard for those who labour among you, and have the oversight of you in the Lord and give you exhortation – ¹³to have them the more in love for their work, and be at peace with them.

¹⁴We urge you, brethren, to warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, bear up the weak, have continual patience toward all people. ¹⁵See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone, but always follow that which is good, both among yourselves and with all people. ¹⁶Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray continually.^a ¹⁸In all things give thanks. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you.

1Pe 3:9

¹⁹Quench not the Spirit.^b ²⁰Do not disregard prophesying. ²¹Examine all things* and keep that which is good. ²²Keep from every appearance of evil. ²³May the very God of peace sanctify you thoroughly. And I pray God that your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept faultless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful is he who called you, who will also do it. ²⁵Brethren, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. ²⁷I charge you in the Lord to read this epistle to all the holy brethren. ²⁸The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

1Co 1:8

*Examine all teachings.

The end of the first epistle to
the Thessalonians.

Sent from
Athens.

The Notes

Pray continually
(5:17)

a) Like a man in prison ever desires to be delivered, whether he is eating, drinking, or sleeping, and like someone who is sick desires always to be whole, so every true Christian prays continually – yea, even when he seems not to pray. For prayer consists not in much babbling (M't 6:7), but in spirit and truth (Joh 4:23,24) and in the vehement desire of the heart toward God.

Quench not the Spirit
(5:19)

b) The Spirit, by whom we believe in Christ and consent to the law, is quenched by wrong living and lewd communication.