

The Second Epistle of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

He thanks God for their faith and love, and prays for the increase of the same.

Paul, Sylvanus, and Timothy.

To the congregation of the Thessalonians who are in God our father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. ²Grace be with you, and peace from God our father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and every one of you swims in love toward another between yourselves, ⁴so that we ourselves rejoice over you in the congregations of God, over your patience and faith in all the persecutions and tribulations that you suffer – ⁵which is a sign* of the righteous judgment of God that you are counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer.

*Tribulation is a mark of salvation.

⁶It is surely a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to those who trouble you; ⁷and to you who are troubled, rest with us when the Lord Jesus shows himself from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to those who do not know God and those who do not heed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁹who will be punished with everlasting damnation apart from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power ¹⁰when he comes to be glorified in his saints and to be made marvelous in all who believe, because our testimony to you was believed even the same day that we preached it. ¹¹And so we pray always for you that our God would make you worthy of the calling, and would fulfill all the pleasure of goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in him, through the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

M't 13:49

Chapter 2

Paul explains to them that the Lord does not come until a departing from the faith has come first, and the final day is not yet at hand. He exhorts them not to be deceived, but to stand steadfast in the things he has taught them.

We beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to him, ²not to be suddenly moved from your mind. And be not troubled, neither by spirit, nor by words, nor yet by letter which seems to come from us, as though the day of Christ were at

Of Antichrist

[Departing: the Gk *apostasia* (646) means a falling away from truth: apostasy]

[Withholds, locks: the Gk *katecho* (2722) means (1)having or taking in possession and (2)withholding, suppressing, locking up. False teaching locks up the meaning of scripture. Persecutions suppress truth. This is the mystery of iniquity worked by the adversary, and is taken out of the way by revelation of truth. Ed: Tyndale's 1534 translation is restored here]

hand. ³Let no man deceive you by any means. For the Lord comes not unless there come a departing* first and that sinful man^a is exposed, the son of perdition, ⁴who is an adversary and is exalted above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he will sit as God in the temple of God^b and show himself as God.

Eph 5:6

⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And now you know what withholds,* so that he may be revealed at his time. ⁷For he does already work the mystery of that iniquity, which only locks* until it be taken out of the way. ⁸And then will that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of his mouth^c and will destroy with the appearance of his coming; ⁹namely him whose coming is by the working of Satan, with all lying power, signs, and wonders,^d ¹⁰and in all the deceivableness of unrighteousness among those who are perishing because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might have been saved.^e ¹¹And therefore God will send them strong delusion, that they will believe lies, ¹²so that all may be judged who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Isa 11:4

M't 7:23

¹³But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctifying by the Spirit and through believing the truth,¹⁴ unto which he called you by our gospel to obtain the glory that comes by our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵Therefore, brethren, stand fast and keep the ordinances which you have learned, whether it was by our preaching or by epistle. ¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our father who has loved us and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish you in all doctrine and in doing good.

The Notes

That sinful man (2:3)

a) *That sinful man* means Antichrist. Of him, look in 1Jo:4. [Tyndale> Antichrist is not a future man of wonders, but is an ever-present spiritual power opposed to Christ, who may be epitomized in religion by exalted men. Antichrist worked through scribes, Pharisees, etc. in Israel until apostasy was full, and then Jesus came in the flesh, and restored truth. In a similar way, Antichrist later worked through monks, priests, and clerics, until the Roman apostasy was full; Antichrist was exposed then by iniquity in the Church and by persecutions, and by efforts to keep the scriptures locked up in Latin. Then the Lord came by his saints, in the Reformation. The scriptures were translated into the languages of the people, and truth restored for a time. The Lord's final coming, with the sword of his mouth, will end the cycle of revelation and apostasy.]

To sit in the temple of God (2:4)

b) To sit in the temple of God is to rule in the consciences of men, and there to command, where only God has place and alone ought to reign. This is as much as to be exalted above God.

spirit of his mouth (2:8)

c) The spirit of his mouth is his holy word.

- Lying wonders (2:9) d) They are called lying wonders or miracles because they testify a false faith.
 No love of truth (2:10) e) Where there is no love for truth, God lets false prophets slip in upon the people to deceive them.

Chapter 3

He asks them to pray for him, so that the gospel may prosper. He warns them to reprove the idle; and if they will not labour with their hands, they should not eat.

Furthermore, brethren, pray for us, that the word of God may have free passage and be glorified as it is with you, ²and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men. For all do not have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and keep you from evil. ⁴We have confidence through the Lord concerning you, that you both do and will do that which we tell you. ⁵And may the Lord guide your hearts to the love of God and patience of Christ.

⁶We require you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw yourselves from every brother who is disorderly, not walking according to the teaching which you received from us. ⁷You yourselves know how you ought to follow us. For we were not disorderly amongst you. ⁸Neither did we take bread from anyone for nothing, but worked with labour and travail night and day, because we did not wish to be burdensome to any of you – ⁹not that we had no right, but to make ourselves an example for you, to follow us. ¹⁰For when we were with you, this we warned you of: that if there were any who would not work, the same should not eat. ¹¹We have heard that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly way, and do not work at all but are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ to work with quietness and eat their own bread.

Ac 20:33-35
 1Co 4:12
 1Th 2:9

¹³Brethren, be not weary in well doing. ¹⁴If any man does not heed what we say, send us word of him by a letter, and keep no company with him so that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵And count him not as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Ga 6:9

¹⁶May the very Lord of peace give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.

¹⁷The greeting of me, Paul, with my own hand.

This is the sign in all epistles – thus

I write. ¹⁸May the grace of

our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

AMEN.

Sent from Athens.