

The 2nd letter that Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica (The book in the Holy Bible called 2 Thessalonians) About this letter

Paul wrote this letter about 2,000 years ago, about 20 years after Jesus went back to heaven, and it is now in the Holy Bible.

After Jesus went back to heaven, God sent Paul to lots of countries and lots of towns to tell people about Jesus. One of those towns was Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-9). It was a big town in the country called Greece, where the Greek people come from, and it is still there today. Sometimes people now call that town Salonica.

Paul wrote his 1st letter to the Christians at Thessalonica soon after he left there. Then about 6 months later, Paul heard that there were people making trouble for those new Christians at Thessalonica and telling them that Jesus already came back from heaven. So Paul wrote this 2nd letter to them, to tell them the true story about what will happen on the earth before Jesus comes back.

Paul said a lot of important things in this letter, so today we have to take notice of what he wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica.

¹ I am Paul, and this letter is from me. Silas and Timothy are here with me, and they are helping me write this letter.

We are sending this letter to you Christians that are in God's church, in the town called Thessalonica. You belong to God our father and to Jesus Christ our leader.*

² We are asking God our father, and Jesus Christ our leader, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

Paul thanked God for the Christians at Thessalonica

³ Christian friends, we know that you are learning to trust God more and more, and you are loving each other more and more. So we have to thank God for you all the time. ⁴ And whenever we visit God's people in the churches in other places, we tell them all about you. We tell them that you keep on believing in Jesus, no matter how much trouble people give you, and no matter how much they hurt you.

Jesus will come back, and God will judge people properly

⁵ You keep on believing in Jesus, and that shows us that God always judges people the right way. It is right for you to be in God's family, because you keep on believing in Jesus, no matter how much trouble people give you.

⁶ God is a good and fair judge, and in the end, he will do payback to those people. He will give them trouble, just like they gave you trouble.

* **1:1** Acts 17:1

⁷ And he will let you rest and be happy, without any trouble.

He will do that for you, and for us too, when Jesus, our leader, comes back. Everyone will see him come from heaven with a big mob of his strong angel messengers, ⁸ and with a lot of fire. They will punish all those people that don't want to know God. Those people don't listen to the good story about Jesus, and they don't do what he says. ⁹ God will go on punishing them for ever. He will properly ruin them. He will shut them out so they can never come near our leader Jesus. They will never see how really great and powerful he is.*

¹⁰ All that will happen on the day when Jesus will come back to the earth. His own people will show what great things he has done for them, and they will really respect him. And you are his people, so you will be there when he comes back. You believed what we told you about Jesus, so you will be in that mob of his people.

God can work powerfully in Christians

¹¹ So we always pray for you. God picked you to be his own people, and he wants his mob to be good people, so we ask God to keep making you better people. You believe in Jesus, and you want to do good things, so we pray that God will work powerfully in you, and we pray that he will give you the power to do all those good things that you want to do. ¹² We ask God to do that, so that people will see how he works in you, and

* **1:9** Isaiah 2:10

then they will really respect our leader, Jesus, and they will say good things about him. And we want you to be so good that Jesus will be happy with you too. We are asking those 2, God and our leader Jesus Christ, to be really good to you.

2

Don't listen to people that reckon Jesus came back already

¹ Now we want to tell you a bit more about how our leader, Jesus Christ, will come back to the earth, and the time when he will bring us all together to be with him. Christian friends, we are telling you this.* ² Don't listen to people that reckon his time has already come, and Jesus has already come back. They are wrong. We don't want you to get upset easily or frightened by those people. They might lie and say that they heard one of God's men say that, or that somebody wrote it in a report, or they might even reckon that we wrote it in a letter. ³ Don't listen to them. Don't let anyone trick you like that.

A really bad man will come before Jesus comes back

You see, it will be like this. There are some things that will happen first, and after that, Jesus will come back. A lot of people will turn against God, and then a really bad man will show himself to everyone. He will never do anything that God wants. He will be the sort of man that God wants

* **2:1** 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

to properly finish up. ⁴ He will reckon that he is better than God. He will fight against God, and against everything else that people think is a god. He will fight against everything that people respect in a spiritual way. He will even go into God's ceremony house and sit down there, and tell everyone that he is God.*

Something is holding back that bad man

⁵ Do you remember me talking about that when I was with you there in your town? ⁶ You already know something about this man. You know that he wants to start doing his bad things now, but somebody is holding him back. But at the right time, God will let everyone see that bad man. ⁷ You know, there is a secret power already working in the world. It is trying to get people to go against God and to break his laws. But somebody is fighting against that power and stopping it from doing that, and he will keep stopping it until God takes him away. ⁸ Then that really bad man will come with that power, and he will show himself to everyone. That bad man never does anything that God wants. But then later, Jesus our leader will come and kill him. Jesus will just talk, and his words will kill that man. Jesus will finish him up when he comes with power.*

That really bad man will trick people

⁹ You see, when that bad man will come, Satan, the boss over the bad spirits, will give some of

* **2:4** Ezekiel 28:2; Daniel 11:36 * **2:8** Isaiah 11:4

his power to that bad man. So that bad man will come, and he will do really clever things with Satan's power. Those things will give people a big shock. They will think that he has good power, and they will believe him, but they will be wrong.* ¹⁰ He will trick those people. They will think, "He is doing powerful things, so he is right," but he will really be doing very bad things with Satan's power. You know, there are some people that don't like the true message about Jesus. They don't believe it. Those people will not let God save them. They are the people that this really bad man will trick. So in the end, God will finish up those people.

¹¹ You see, they will not believe the true message, so God will let somebody properly trick them, and they will believe that bad man's lies.

¹² They are people that like to do bad things, and they will not believe the true message about Jesus. So God will judge them, and he will say they are guilty.

Keep on properly trusting Jesus

¹³⁻¹⁴ But, Christian friends, we thank God that you are not in that mob. Right from the start, God picked you to be the ones that he will save. And he put his Holy Spirit into you, to save you. We told you the true message about Jesus, and you believed it. It is like God called to you, at that time, to come and join his mob. And now God's spirit works in you all the time to change

* **2:9** Matthew 24:24

you into God's special people. And God will make you great, like our leader Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ So then, Christian friends, you have to keep strong and keep on properly trusting Jesus. Keep on believing the things that we taught you. You see, Jesus taught us those things, and later we taught them to you. We told you those things when we were there with you, and after that, we wrote letters to you to tell you more. Now keep on believing those things.

¹⁶ And we pray to our leader Jesus Christ himself, and we also pray to God our father. God loves us, and he is very good to us. He helps us to be strong, and to be brave, for ever. He tells us that we are his people, for sure. ¹⁷ So we ask him to help you to be strong, and brave too, so that you keep on doing good things, and keep on saying good things.

3

Paul asked the Christians at Thessalonica to pray for him

¹ And, Christian friends, there is one more thing we want to ask you to do. Please pray for us. Ask God to help us tell a lot more people about Jesus. We want them to hear that message soon, and we want them to believe it, just like you did. ² You know, there are some people that never believe the good news about Jesus, and some very bad people that want to give us trouble. Ask God to keep us safe from them.

Jesus will keep you safe

³ But Jesus, our leader, is always good to us, and he always does what he promised to do. He will help you to keep on trusting him strongly. He will keep you safe from that really bad one, the boss over the bad spirits, so that he can't touch you. ⁴ You see, God helps us know for sure about you. We reckon that you are doing the things that we told you to do, and we reckon that you will keep on doing them. ⁵ We want Jesus Christ, our leader, to help you understand more about God, and to understand that he really loves you. And we want him to help you to keep going strong, just like Jesus Christ kept going strong when he was here on the earth.

Don't be lazy

⁶⁻⁷ Listen, Christian friends, Jesus Christ, our leader, wants us to tell you this. If anyone says they are a Christian, but they sit down and never want to do any work, you have to keep away from that person. Remember when we were with you. Think about what we were like. We didn't sit around doing nothing. And we told you, "Don't be lazy." We want you to live the way we lived when we were with you. ⁸ We worked very hard, not only in the day time, but at night time too, so that we could get enough money to look after ourselves. We always paid for the food you gave us. You didn't have to find extra money to look after us.

No work, no food

⁹ You know, God says that if somebody tells people the good news about Jesus, it is all right

for that person to ask for the things they need. But we didn't do that. We didn't ask you for anything. You see, we wanted to show you the right way for a Christian to live. ¹⁰ Remember what we told you about people that don't want to work. We told you not to give them food. We said, "If they will not do any work, don't give them any food."

Get a job so you can buy your own food

¹¹ You see, somebody told us that there are some lazy people there with you that never want to do any work. They just go around talking about people in a bad way and messing up other people's lives. ¹² So we write this to those lazy people. Our leader, Jesus Christ, wants us to strongly tell them this. They have to change the way they live. They have to settle down and get a job, so that they can buy their own food to eat.

¹³ But to you other Christian friends we say this, keep on doing good things all the time, and always be happy to do them.

Try to straighten out those people that go wrong

¹⁴ We are writing this letter to tell you the right way to live. If some people will not do what we say in this letter, tell everyone about them, and don't be their close friends. Then they will feel shame. ¹⁵ But don't be their enemies. Instead, talk to them like they are your brothers or sisters, and try to straighten them out.

The end of the letter

¹⁶ We will finish this letter now. You know, our leader, Jesus, he is the one that can make people feel quiet and happy inside themselves. Well, we pray that he will do that for you all the time, and that he will be with you all the time.

Paul signed this letter

¹⁷ *This is me, Paul, writing this bit now. I'm saying hello to you, and I am writing it with my own hand, so everyone can be sure that this letter is really from me. I do this at the end of all my letters.* ¹⁸ *I pray that Jesus Christ, our leader, will keep on being really good to all of you.*

From Paul

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who speak English as a second language

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