

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE PEOPLE IN THESSALONICA

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(1:1)

^{1a} This word is from me Paul, and from what's-his-name, from Silas and from Timothy also. We are writing to you believers in that (distant) town, in Thessalonica. You all belong to God and to Jesus. That God is our Father and that Jesus Christ is our Boss. You all belong to those two. This word is for all of you. ^{1b} We ask God our Father and Jesus Christ our Boss also, that those two will take good care of you and make your feelings peaceful.

(1:2-10)

²⁻³ We keep on asking God he will do good to you all. We remember that you believe in the Boss Jesus Christ, because of that you always do things in the right way. You love God, because of that whatever you do you continually do it the right way for God. You believe the Boss Jesus will come from above, then he will take you to God's country. Because of that you continually follow him. Others made it bad for you, (but) you did not back away. We remember what you are like. Because of that we continually

say to the Father Above, "Thankyou!" ⁴ Yes, we know about you, God loves you and he chose you to become his (people). ^{5a} We came to you, we told you, "God sent Jesus to help you/take your part." You believed not just as a result of our word. No! God's Good Spirit came to you, he told you, "That is a true word!" You believed that word. Because of that we know about you that God chose you to become his people. ^{5b} At that (time) when we were with you, you know about us, we did whatever we did so you will do in that same way like us. ⁶ As soon as you heard us, you also did like we did and like our Boss Jesus did, whatever you did you did properly. Others keep you in a bad way, unsuccessfully they prevent you from believing in him. You keep on believing in him gladly. The Good Spirit keeps you happy. ⁷ Because of that other believers in those two countries, in Macedonia and in Achaia, they understood that they should become like you. ⁸ That word about the Boss Jesus spread out from you to all the people in Macedonia and Achaia. They weren't the only ones that heard that word, others also in countries everywhere heard that word, they all know about you, you believe in God. We did not tell them about you, they already knew about you. ⁹ People in countries everywhere talk about you. They know about you, you listened to our word, because of that you abandoned your deceptive dreamtime-being-like ones and you wanted very much to become God's people. God is the one who truly lives forever. ¹⁰ Yes, you

believe in that one who lives forever, you are waiting for his son Jesus. He made Jesus alive after death. Now you are waiting for Jesus to return from the sky. He is the one who took the place of/helped us believers. Because of that God will not look at us with anger.

2

(2:1 - 16)

¹⁻² Yes, you know about that time we came to you, we did not tell you God's really good word in vain. Truly you believed it. Previously in Philippi some people looked at us with anger, they beat us and were keeping us in a bad way. You know about that. Then we left Philippi, we came to you in Thessalonica. At that time we told you God's word. Some people did not listen to us. They tried in vain to stop us speaking. We were not afraid of them, God made us firm to speak. ³ We were telling you that true word, we did not just lie to you so you would give us money or whatever thing. No. We always kept on doing the right thing. ⁴ God continually watches us, he knows whatever we are thinking about. He himself chose us to take this true word of his to you. Because of that God is the one we want to please, not people. ⁵ We did not praise you so that you in response might speak well about us. We were not greedy for money and whatever other things. ^{6a} We did not ask you, or others either, to praise us. God knows about me that I am speaking the truth. ^{6b-7} We are the ones

who told you that word about Jesus Christ. He himself sent us to you. Because of that we could have asked you (but did not) to look after us well, and to give us money. No! We did not want to do like that. We (emphatic) looked after you well. You know how a mother cares for her little child, in that sort of way we became for you. ⁸ We truly love you, we continually think about you. For that reason we did not just give you that good word from God. We also made you like our very own relatives. ⁹ Yes, while we were telling you the word from God, we were also working for money for food. We did not ask you for food. We did not eat your food. We worked hard in the day and in the night also to get our money. You know we used to do just like that. ¹⁰ At that time when we were living with you, we continually did things properly and without badness in order to please God. You know about that, God knows also, that's a really true word. ¹¹⁻¹² You know how a father persuades his child to do things the proper way, we became sort of like that for you. We continually told you, you should live in a proper way to please God. He himself chose you. Later he will take you to his truly good country. Because of that you should do everything properly in order to please him. ¹³ As soon as we told you that really good word you happily heard/obeyed it. You thought, "This is God's (emphatic) word, not just Paul's." It really is God's word. You believed that word, from doing wrong you turned to a different way, now you are going in the right way. Because

of that we continually say 'Thankyou!' to God. ¹⁴ As soon as you believed God's word your fellow countrymen became angry with you. You became like others, those believers in what's-its-name, in Judea, their own countrymen became angry with them, they tried in vain to prevent them following Jesus Christ. In the same sort of way your own countrymen tried in vain to prevent you following him. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Many Jewish people rejected God's word. Long ago from time to time some of them killed the messengers who brought them God's word. A long time after that some killed Jesus our Boss. Now in these days others banished us from your town. They always try in vain to stop us telling the true words about the Boss Jesus to you or to anyone else. They call themselves "Jews", they call everyone else "Gentiles". We (emphatic) want all those who-are-they, those Gentiles, to know about the Boss Jesus and to believe in him. God will save all the ones who do that. These Jews are opponents for everybody else. They don't want other Jews or Gentiles to hear the words about the Boss Jesus. They are evil-doers. Therefore God is angry with them. At last he will hit them very hard.

(2:17 - 3:13)

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Yes, those Jews sent us right away from your town. After that we continually thought of you, truly we love you. We were wanting to return to you, we were lonely for you. I, Paul, several times tried to return to you, (but) Satan was blocking me. ¹⁹⁻²⁰ Yes, we were wanting very

much to return and see you. Previously when we told you about the Boss Jesus you believed in him, you left off doing badly, you became those characterised by good. Because of that you made us joyful/really happy. Later Jesus our Boss will return from the sky. Then we and you will be standing together in one group, we will be very close, he will see us together. We will know about you that we did not tell you God's really good word in vain. Because of that we will be very happy.

3

¹⁻² I did not forget you, I was feeling worried about you. I kept wanting to go to see you. At last I sent Timothy to you. Timothy is one of us, he is God's messenger, he takes Jesus Christ's message to people. I told him, "I will stay here in Athens. You go back to see the Christians in what's-its-name, in Thessalonica." I sent him to you to persuade you strongly, so that you will believe in the Boss Jesus with firm/steady hearts and without fear all the time. ³⁻⁴ Others will put you in a bad way and they might frighten you, they might make you go in a different direction from following the Boss Jesus. When we were staying with you we told you they would do like that to you. Now you know we told you a true word. ⁵ Yes, I was thinking about you with worry. I was thinking, "Perhaps Satan has tempted them, as a result of that maybe they stopped following the Boss Jesus. Maybe we told them God's word for nothing." That is what I was thinking. I

wanted to know about you. That is why I sent Timothy to you to look and see. ⁶ Now Timothy has returned to me. He told me you are still trusting God and you are caring for each other well. You remember us kindly and you want to see us. Like that we also want to see you. ⁷⁻⁸ Yes, Timothy told me the message, he made me very happy. Here others were putting me in a bad way/making it hard for me. They made me upset. Now I know about you, you are still following the Boss Jesus. Because of that I am happy for you. ¹⁰ We talk to God about you constantly, we tell him we want to see you again, we will teach you (more) about God. In that way you will really know about him. ¹¹ For that very reason we ask God our Father and Jesus our Boss, "Perhaps you might take us safely to return to the people in Thessalonica." ¹² We ask the Boss Jesus for you, you will really take good care of one another with love. We really love you, in the same sort of way you should with intensity love and take care of each other and other people also. ¹³ We want you to stay strong in your spirits, and to really stay without evil. In that way we ask the Boss Jesus to make you strong. When he returns from the sky with his angels you will be without badness in the presence of God our Father.

4

(4:1 - 12)

¹⁻² Yes, you know those words we told you. Those words came from Jesus our Boss. We

taught you what you should be like in order to please God. You listened to us. Now we are telling you from the Lord Jesus: Keep on doing the right thing according to our words. ³ God wants you to be like this. You should become like him, without evil. You all should stay only with your own spouses only, don't desire the spouse of another. No indeed! ⁴⁻⁵ Some people are very ignorant of God, they are always wanting other people's women. Don't be like those unbelievers. No! Amongst your people you (pl.) should stay (each) only with your own spouse. You should look after him/her without anger/fighting and be kind to him/her. ⁶ Maybe one of you might steal the wife of another man. God will be angry with that thief. God is the one who will punish those who do like that. We already seriously told you these words. ⁷ God told us Christians to stay without badness like him, we should not be like others who are sexually promiscuous. ⁸ Some disregard/ignore this word. Those disregarders are ignoring us, they are ignoring God himself also. God is the one who gave you his Good Spirit, because of that (emphatic) you should not ignore him. ⁹ Yes, God has already told you to care for each other well/with kindness. We won't write in this letter about that, you already understand about that. ¹⁰ Yes, you are taking care of the Christians well in your country Macedonia. Now we tell you, keep on doing like that. ¹¹ Don't go to the camps of others to criticise, a troubler of other people. As a result of that sort of thing they might get upset and angry. Always work

hard. That's exactly what we have already told you before. ¹² You should work for your own food money. If you do that you won't go begging to other people for theirs. People will say about you that you live in a good and appropriate way.

(4:13 - 5:11)

[?? Should we at some stage standardise on the English words "Christians" or "Believers", or is it better to retain the "yijalmarta jinakatarrangu".]

¹³ Yes, listen to this word about believers who have already died. We want you to know about them. Then you will not be continually sad for them. Some people are ignorant of God, because of that they stay sad continually. Do not be sad like them. Those ones do not trust in the Boss Jesus, and they are very sad about those who have died. ¹⁴ Jesus died. After that God made him alive again. We all believe that word. Therefore we believe this other word also: later God will send Jesus from the sky to get the believers that have already died. The Boss Jesus will take them, the believers, to the Father. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ We tell you this word from Jesus our(incl) Boss. He will return from the sky to get all the believers, he will take us to the Father's country. He will take the ones who are still alive and the ones who have died also. Those ones who are still alive will not go up ahead to the sky first. No! It will be like this: Our Boss himself will come down from the sky and he will call out loudly to the believers who have already died. A big angel will also blow through a big thing, they call it a trumpet. With that thing he will

blow hard. Those who are dead will hear that trumpet and the Boss Jesus when he calls. As a result of that those dead ones will become alive. ¹⁷ After that those other believers who are still alive he will cause to go upwards. He will gather us all together up in the clouds, the ones who have already died and the others also. In that very way we will all be with Jesus our Boss for ever. ¹⁸ Therefore you should continually make each other brave and happy with this word.

5

¹ Maybe some people are thinking, "When will the Boss Jesus return to get us? When will he hit those who habitually do evil?" Our Boss will come very suddenly/quickly. You already know for sure about that word. I won't teach you about that with this letter. When will he come? About that we are all ignorant. ² We already told you that about him, he will come suddenly/quickly indeed. _____

— Many people will not be expecting him. Yes. A thief might go to another person's camp in the night. Those others are ignorant about when he will arrive in their camp. They will not wait alertly for that thief. In that same sort of way the Boss Jesus will suddenly come very close for us, many people will not be expecting him. ³ At that time they will say, "Everything is good. Others will not hit us with anger." They will be talking in that sort of way, at that very time the Boss Jesus will appear. He will hit them really quickly, he will hit them really hard, they

will not be able to hide from him. You know about pregnant women giving birth, it is very painful, they cannot stop the babies from being born. It will be like that for people, the ones who are distracted/not paying attention, when the Boss Jesus comes they will not be watching for him. They will try in vain to hide from him. ⁴⁻⁵ Yes, you are not like others, the ones who are not God's. They live in what is like darkness, Satan's darkness. They are not expecting the Boss Jesus to come. When he comes they will get a shock/be startled. You are not like those ones. You belong to God, you live in his light. You are waiting for Jesus. When he comes you will not get a shock, you will be happy. ⁶ We are not living in darkness. We should not be sleeping all the time like others. We should be alert waiting expectantly for the Boss Jesus to come. We should not be like those who are habitual drunkards, those are drinking all the time. ⁷ It's in the night that people sleep, those who are habitual drinkers get drunk in the night also. ⁸ We should not be like them, they live in the darkness. We belong to God, we live in his light. Therefore we should live in an appropriate way, not like the drunkards. We should always trust God and take care of one another well. We should remember, Boss Jesus himself will take us to his Father's country. When we act in that way God will keep us safe from Satan. ⁹⁻¹⁰ God chose us, he made us his own people. He did that not to look on us with anger and to hit us. He chose us in order to take care of us, he will

take us to his own country. That is the very reason he sent Jesus our Boss to us. He died for us to rescue us. Later he will return to get us all, the living ones and the dead ones. He will take us all to be with him for ever. ¹¹ Therefore remind each other with this word, then you will not be sad / worried. You have already been telling each other this word. You should keep on doing like that in order to believe strongly/firmly. ¹² Yes, we ask you to think well of your leaders. God himself chose those leaders for you. Truly they really take care of you and they teach you believers how to live in the proper way. ^{13a} In that sort of way they work for you. Therefore truly think well of them and love them. ^{13b} Don't argue with each other. ¹⁴ We want you to do this sort of thing: Some among you are habitually not workers, tell them they must work. Some among you are fearful. Say to them, "Trust God! He will take care of you. Don't be afraid!" Some among you are habitually slack, tell them, "In a true way follow the Boss Jesus!" Behave gently with everyone. ¹⁵ Some people might do wrong to you, don't you do wrong to them in response. Take care of each other really well, others also, take care of them, the ones who don't know the Boss Jesus. ¹⁶ Always be really happy. ¹⁷ Keep on talking to God. ¹⁸ Continually say "Thankyou!" to God. Say like that to him when you are in a good way and when you are in a bad way also. Christians should do like that. God wants that sort of thing. ¹⁹⁻²⁰ Perhaps the Holy Spirit will talk to you, do not be inattentive.

Perhaps another person will tell you that he is speaking a word from God. Don't ignore that word. ²¹⁻²² Listen carefully to that word. You should ask yourselves, "Is that word true? Is it from God?" Perhaps it is indeed really true, then act according to that word. Perhaps it is really false, not from God, it is bad. Don't do according to a bad word.

(5:23 - 28)

²³ God is with you, he himself looks after you well. Therefore your feelings are at peace. I ask God for you that he will keep you safe, without badness. I ask for you that he will take care of your spirit and mind and body well. In this very way you will stay without badness forever. One day Jesus Christ our Boss will return from the sky, he will say you are truly good, without evil. ²⁴ God himself picked you to become his own people. He is dependable, he will make you really good and keep you safe. ²⁵ Yes, you should ask God for us that he will take care of us also. ²⁶ You all belong to the Boss Jesus. When you are together in a group give each other a hug with happiness. ²⁷ I, Paul, tell you, God wants you to listen/pay attention to this word. You should read this letter for everyone to hear.

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