

The 2nd letter that Paul wrote to the
Christians at Thessalonica
This page tells a bit more about Paul's
2nd letter to the Christians at
Thessalonica

Thessalonica was a big town in the country that we now call Greece. It is still a big city today. Sometimes people now call that town Salonica.

About 2,000 years ago Paul went to Thessalonica to tell the people about Jesus Christ. Silas and Timothy went there with him, but after a few weeks they had to leave and go to another place (see Acts 17:1-15). A few months later, Paul wrote his 1st letter to those people in Thessalonica that believed in Jesus.

Soon after that, Paul heard that some other people were making bad trouble for the Christians at Thessalonica, and some people reckoned that Jesus already came back from heaven. So he wrote this 2nd letter to them to tell them the true story about these things.

In this letter Paul wrote about what will happen on the earth before Jesus comes back, and he said other good things too. So today we have to take notice of what he wrote a long time ago to the Christians at Thessalonica.

¹ I am Paul, and this letter is from me and Silas and Timothy. They are helping me write this letter. We are sending it to you people that belong to God, the father of our leader, Jesus Christ. We are sending it to you Christians that live in the city called Thessalonica.

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 Our Christian friends, we know 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 or how much they hit you.

Jesus will come back and God will judge people properly

⁵ All this shows us that God always judges people the right way. You see, you let God be your boss and you are in his family now, so other people don't like you and they give you trouble. God lets them do that now so that you will be better people, and you will join his family. ⁶ God is a good and fair judge, and in the end he will do payback to them and give them trouble, just like they gave you trouble. ⁷ And he will let you rest and be happy, without any trouble. He will do this 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 will not listen to the good story about Jesus, or 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 this 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 will be there too in this mob. You believed what we told you about Jesus, so you will be with his people when he comes back to earth.

God can work powerfully in Christians

¹¹ So we always pray for you. God picked you to be his own people, so we ask God to keep making you better people so that he will be happy to have you in his mob. You believe in Jesus and you want to do good things, so we pray that God will work powerfully in you, and that he will give you the power to do all those good things that you want to do. ¹² We ask God to do this so that people will see how he works in you and they will really respect our leader, Jesus, and 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 the way our leader, Jesus Christ, will come back to the earth, and the time when he will bring us all together to be with him. ² Friends, 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 this, 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 get up and show himself to everyone. He will never do anything that God wants. He will be the kind of man that God wants to properly finish up. ⁴ He will reckon 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 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 this when I was with you there at 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 secret power already working in the world, stopping people from doing what God wants. But somebody is fighting against that power and stopping it from winning. And he will keep doing that till God takes him away. ⁸ Then that really bad man will come and show himself to everyone. That man never does anything that God wants. But Jesus, our leader, will come and kill him. Jesus will talk, and his breath will kill that man. And Jesus will finish him up with the very bright, powerful light that shines from Jesus himself.

That really bad man will trick people

⁹ You know, the devil, called Satan, will give some of 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 shock people very much. 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. They will not let God save them. These 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 These are people that like to do bad things and will not believe the true message about Jesus. So God will judge them and say they are guilty.

Keep on properly trusting Jesus

¹³⁻¹⁴ But 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 you into God's special people. And in heaven you will be really great, along with our leader, Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ So then, 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. Keep on believing those things.

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

3

Paul asked the Christians at Thessalonica to pray for him

¹ And friends, there is one more thing we want to say. Pray for us. Ask God to help us to 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 as for you, friends, remember that Jesus, our leader, 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 devil, 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, 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. Do you remember that time when we were with you? Do you remember what we were like? We didn't sit around doing nothing. And we told you, "Don't be lazy." We want you to copy us, and 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 alright for that person to ask for the things he needs. 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 feed them. We said, "If they will not do any work, don't feed them anything either."

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. But instead, they go around to other people and mess them up. 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 be quiet 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 going strong and don't give up doing good things.

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 ashamed. 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 settle everyone down and help them feel good inside. And we pray that he will do this 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 really is 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

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English Version translation
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Dialect: Australian Aboriginal

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2019-08-07

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 27 Sep 2019 from source files dated 8 Aug 2019

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