1 Thessalonians

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of
the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.
2 We always give thanks to God for all of you,
mentioning you without ceasing in our prayers,
3 remembering before our God and Father
your work of faith, labor of love, and endurance
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
4 We know, brothers and sisters loved by God,
that he has chosen you,
5 because our gospel came to you not in word
alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit
and with deep conviction, just as you know
what we were like among you for your sake.
6 And you became imitators of us and of the
Lord, receiving the word in great affliction with
the joy of the Holy Spirit,
7 so that you became an example to all the
believers in Macedonia and Achaia.
8 For from you the word of the Lord has
sounded out, not only in Macedonia and Achaia,
but your faith toward God has gone out
everywhere, so that we have no need to say
anything.
9 For they themselves report about us what
kind of welcome we had among you, and how
you turned to God from idols to serve the living
and true God

10 and to await his Son from the heavens,
whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who
rescues us from the coming wrath.

2

1 For you yourselves know, brothers and
sisters, that our visit to you has not been in vain.
2 But after we had suffered and been
shamefully treated in Philippi, as you know, we
had boldness in our God to speak the gospel of
God to you amid great struggle.
3 For our appeal does not come from error or
impurity, nor is it made in deceit.
4 Instead, just as God has approved us to be
entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to
please people but God, who tests our hearts.
5 For we never came with flattering words, as
you know, or with a pretext for greed—God is
witness—
6 nor did we seek glory from people, whether
from you or from others,
7 though as apostles of Christ we could have
been a burden. Instead, we were gentle among
you, as a nursing mother cherishes her own
children.
8 So, longing for you, we were pleased to share
with you not only the gospel of God but also our
own lives, because you had become beloved to
us.
9 For you remember, brothers and sisters, our
labor and toil. Working night and day so as not
to burden any of you, we proclaimed the gospel
of God to you.

10 You are witnesses, and God also, of how
devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we
behaved toward you who believe.
11 As you know, we dealt with each one of you
as a father with his own children,
12 exhorting you, encouraging you, and urging
you to walk worthily of God, who calls you into
his own kingdom and glory.

13 And for this reason we too thank God
without ceasing: when you received the word of
God that you heard from us, you accepted it not
as a human word but as what it truly is, the
word of God, which is also at work in you who
believe.
14 For you, brothers and sisters, became
imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus
that are in Judea, because you suffered the same
things from your own countrymen as they did
from the Jews,
15 who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets
and drove us out, who do not please God and
are opposed to all people,
16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles
so that they may be saved, and thus always
filling up their sins. But wrath has overtaken
them to the full.

17 But we, brothers and sisters, having been
torn away from you for a short time—in person,
not in heart—made all the more effort, with
great longing, to see your faces.
18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul,
more than once—but Satan hindered us.

19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of
boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is
it not you as well?
20 For you are our glory and joy.

3

1 Therefore, when we could bear it no longer,
we thought it best to be left alone in Athens,
2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's
fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to
strengthen and encourage you concerning your
faith,
3 so that no one would be shaken by these
afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are
appointed to this.
4 Indeed, when we were with you, we kept
telling you beforehand that we would suffer
affliction, just as it happened and as you know.
5 For this reason, when I too could bear it no
longer, I sent to learn about your faith, fearing
that the tempter might have tempted you and
our labor might prove to be in vain.
6 But now Timothy has come to us from you
and brought us good news of your faith and
love, and that you always remember us kindly,
longing to see us just as we long to see you.
7 For this reason, brothers and sisters, in all
our distress and affliction we were comforted
about you through your faith,
8 for now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord.
9 For what thanks can we give back to God for
you, for all the joy with which we rejoice
because of you before our God,

10 as night and day we pray most earnestly to
see your faces and complete what is lacking in
your faith?
11 May our God and Father himself, and our
Lord Jesus, direct our way to you.
12 May the Lord make you increase and
overflow in love for one another and for
everyone, just as we do for you,
13 so that he may strengthen your hearts,
blameless in holiness before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his
saints.

4

1 Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask
and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, just as you
received from us how you ought to walk and
please God—as indeed you do walk—you should
abound still more.
2 For you know what instructions we gave you
through the Lord Jesus.
3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification:
that you abstain from sexual immorality;
4 that each of you know how to control his
own body in holiness and honor,
5 not in passionate desire like the Gentiles who
do not know God;
6 that no one transgress or take advantage of
his brother in this matter, because the Lord is
the avenger in all these things, as we told you
beforehand and solemnly warned you.
7 For God did not call us for impurity, but in
holiness.

8 Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not a
human being but God, who also gives his Holy
Spirit to you.

9 Now concerning brotherly love, you have no
need for anyone to write to you, for you
yourselves are taught by God to love one
another.
10 Indeed, you do this toward all the brothers
and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge
you, brothers and sisters, to abound still more,
11 and to make it your ambition to live quietly,
mind your own affairs, and work with your
hands, just as we instructed you,
12 so that you may walk respectably toward
outsiders and have need of no one.

13 But we do not want you to be unaware,
brothers and sisters, about those who are
asleep, so that you do not grieve like the rest,
who have no hope.
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, so God will also, through Jesus, bring with
him those who have fallen asleep.
15 For we say this to you by a word of the Lord:
we who are alive, who remain until the coming
of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who
have fallen asleep.
16 For the Lord himself will descend from
heaven with a command, with an archangel's
voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the
dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive, who remain, will be
caught up together with them in the clouds to

meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always
be with the Lord.
18 Therefore encourage one another with
these words.

5

1 Now concerning the times and seasons,
brothers and sisters, you have no need for
anything to be written to you,
2 for you yourselves know very well that the
day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night.
3 When they say, “Peace and security,” then
sudden destruction comes upon them like labor
pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will
certainly not escape.
4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in
darkness, so that the day should overtake you
like a thief,
5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day.
We do not belong to the night or to darkness.
6 So then let us not sleep as the rest do, but let
us stay awake and be sober.
7 For those who sleep sleep at night, and those
who get drunk get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and
love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God did not appoint us for wrath, but to
obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us so that, whether we are
awake or asleep, we may live together with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build
each other up, just as you are doing.

12 We ask you, brothers and sisters, to
recognize those who labor among you and lead
you in the Lord and admonish you,
13 and to esteem them most highly in love
because of their work. Be at peace among
yourselves.
14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters:
admonish the undisciplined, encourage the
fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with
everyone.
15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil,
but always pursue what is good for one another
and for everyone.
16 Rejoice always.
17 Pray without ceasing.
18 Give thanks in everything, for this is God's
will for you in Christ Jesus.
19 Do not quench the Spirit.
20 Do not despise prophecies,
21 but test everything; hold fast to what is
good.
22 Abstain from every form of evil.
23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you
completely, and may your spirit and soul and
body be kept whole and blameless at the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he
will do it.
25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us.
26 Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy
kiss.
27 I solemnly charge you by the Lord to have
this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with
you.

x

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