

1 1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy. To the church of the Thessalonicas in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God concerning you all, making mention of you in our prayers, and always 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith, labor of love, and steadfast hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, God-beloved brethren, of your election, 5 for our gospel to you did not turn out to be in word only but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with full conviction, for you know what sort of men we were among you on your account. 6 You turned out to be imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the Word with much affliction and with joy from the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For not only is the Word of the Lord ringing forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone out everywhere, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report, concerning us, what sort of welcome we received from you, how you turned from idols to God to serve the living and true God 10 and are waiting expectantly for his son out of the Heavens, whom he rose from the dead: *Jesus* who rescues us from the coming wrath.

2 1 Brethren, you *yourselves* know, our visit to you has not been in vain, 2 but, as you know, having already suffered and been treated shamefully in Philippi, we had courage in our God to speak the gospel of God to you despite great opposition. 3 For our appeal is neither from error nor from uncleanness nor from treachery, 4 but, since we have been tested by God to be trusted with the Gospel, we speak not to please people but to please God, who examines our hearts. 5 We neither came flattering in word, as you know, nor with a pretense of greed, God as our witness, 6 nor did we come seeking the glory of people, either from you or from another; although able to make demands as Christ's apostles, 7 we were as children among you, as if we were a nurse caring for her children. 8 Like this we are affectionately yearning for you, to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but even our own souls, because you have become so dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and travail, night and day, that we might not burden any of you while proclaiming to you the Gospel of God. 10 You and God also are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were to you believers, 11 just as you know, as a father is to each of his children, 12 we kept encouraging you and consoling you and insisting that you work worthy before God, who calls you to his kingdom and glory.

13 We constantly thank God for this reason: that receiving the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of people, but as what it is actually: the word of God, which is working in you believers. 14 For you brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea because you have suffered the same things as them at the hands of your own countrymen even as they did from the Jews, 15 who also killed Lord Jesus and the prophets, drove us out, and do not please God and oppose all people 16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they might be saved--always filling up the full measure of their sins. The wrath has come upon them at last.

17 But since we, brethren, have been separated from you for a short time, in person but not in heart, we have greatly desired, *with overflowing desire*, to see you face to face. 18 Since we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, again and again-- Satan has hindered us. 19

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

3 1 When we could endure it no longer, we preferred to be left behind in Athens alone,
2 and sent Timothy, our brother and fellow-worker of God in the Gospel of Christ, to
establish you and to exhort you in your faith 3 that no one be shaken by these afflictions.
For as you yourselves know, it is for this reason that we exist. 4 For even when we were
with you, we told you beforehand that we must be afflicted, even as we have, as you
know. 5 Because of this, when even I could not endure it any longer, I sent in order to
know your faith, lest the tempter had tempted you, and our labor turn out to be in vain.

6 Now when Timothy came back to us from you he gave us good news about your
faith, your love, and that you always remember us kindly, and desire to see us just as we
desire to see you; 7 because of this, brethren, in all our distress and tribulation we have
been comforted by you on account of your faith, 8 for now we live, if you are steadfast in
the Lord. 9 With what sort of thanksgiving can we repay God because of you, for all the
joy which we gladly get from you before our God, 10 other than night and day begging
earnestly to see you face to face and restore the things lacking from your faith?

11 Now, may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you;
12 and may the Lord increase and overflow your love to one another and all people, just
as ours for you, 13 in order to establish your hearts faultless in holiness before our God
and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

4 1 Therefore brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, just as you have
received from us how necessary it is for you to live for and please God, even as you are
living, that you would do even more. 2 For you know what orders we gave you through
the Lord Jesus. 3 For God's will is this: your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual
immorality, 4 for each of you to know how to possess his own vessel in holiness and
honor, 5 not in lustful desire like the Gentiles that do not know God; 6 that no one
transgresses or takes advantage of his brethren in this matter for the Lord is the avenger in
all these things, as we solemnly and emphatically forewarned you. 7 For our God has not
called us to uncleanness, but to holiness. 8 Therefore, whoever disregards this does not
disregard people but God, the one who gives you the Holy Spirit.

9 But concerning brotherly love you do not need anyone to write to you, for you
yourselves are taught by God to love one another, 10 and you do it even to all the brethren
in all of Macedonia. But we encourage you brethren, do it all the more, 11 strive
earnestly to live quietly, and do your own work, and work with your own hands, just as
we commanded you, 12 in order that you may walk honorably before those on the outside
and have no need of anyone.

13 But we do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, about the ones who are asleep, in
order that you not grieve like the others who have no hope. 14 For, since we have faith
that Jesus died and rose again, then God will, through Jesus, bring with him those who
are asleep.

15 For we say this to you by the word of the Lord: *we* who are alive, who are left until
the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who are already asleep; 16 because the
Lord himself, with a summons, with the voice of the archangel, and with a trumpet of
God, shall descend from Heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first; 17 then we, the
ones who are alive, and left, will be snatched up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord
in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore, exhort one another
with these words.

5 1 But, concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you do not need anyone to write to you, 2 for *you* know very well that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. 3 When people say, "Peace and security," then sudden utter destruction will come upon them just as the labor pains on a woman in labor, and no one will be able to flee. 4 But, brethren, *you* are not in darkness that that day should surprise you as a thief; 5 for *you* are all sons of light and of the day. We are not sons of the night or darkness; 6 therefore we should not sleep, as the others, but we should watch and be sober. 7 For the ones sleeping sleep at night, and the ones getting drunk get drunk at night; 8 but we who are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and a helmet of the hope of salvation; 9 for God did not destine us for wrath, but to acquire salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ 10 who died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we shall live together with him. 11 Therefore exhort one another and build up one another, even as you are doing.

12 We beg you, brethren, respect the ones laboring among you, the ones who lead you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and regard them highly in love on account of their work. Be at peace with yourselves. 14 But we exhort you, brethren, warn the insubordinate, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See to it that no one repays evil with evil, but always seek to do good to each other and to everyone.

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray always, 18 give thanks in all things; this is God's will in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit, 20 do not despise prophesying, 21 but test all things, hold fast to the good, 22 abstain from all forms of evil.

23 May the God of peace sanctify you in every respect, and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one calling you is faithful; he will do as he says.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I solemnly charge you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brethren.

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