

The Second Epistle to the Thessalonians

The Argument

Lest the Thessalonians should think that Paul neglected them, because he went to other places, rather than came to them, he writeth unto them and exhorteth them to patience and other fruits of faith, neither to be moved with that vain opinion of such as taught that the coming of Christ was at hand, forasmuch as before that day there should be a falling away from true religion, even by a great part of the world, and that Antichrist should reign in the Temple of God: finally commending himself to their prayers, and encouraging them to constancy, he willeth them to correct such sharply, as live idly of other men's labors, whom, if they do not obey his admonitions, he commandeth to excommunicate.

Chapter 1

3 He thanketh God for their faith, love and patience. 11 He praileth for the increase of the same, 12 And sheweth what fruit shall come thereof.

Paul and Silvanus, and Timotheus unto the Church of the Thessalonians, *which is in God our Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ:*

2 Grace be with you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 *We ought to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is mete, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the love of every one of you toward another abundeth,

4 So that we ourselves rejoice of you in the Churches of God, because of your ^apatience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye suffer,

5 *Which is a ^btoken of the righteous judgement of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for the which ye also suffer.

6 For it is a righteous thing with God, to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you,

7 And to you which are troubled, rest with us *when the Lord Jesus shall show himself from heaven with his ^cmighty Angels,

8 In flaming fire, rendering vengeance unto them, that do not know God, and which obey not unto the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,

9 Which shall be punished with ^deverlasting perdition, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power, 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his Saints, and to be made marvelous in all them that believe (because our testimony toward you was believed) in that day. 11 Wherefore, we also pray always for you, that our God may make you worthy of *his* calling, and fulfill ^eall the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the ^fwork of faith with power,

12 That the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be

3 *1Thess. 1.2

4 a Which proceedeth of your faith as a most notable fruit.

5 *Jude 6

5 b The faithful by their afflictions see, as in a clear glass the end of Gods just judgement, when as they shall reign with Christ which have suffered with him, and the wicked shall feel his extreme wrath and vengeance.

7 *1Thess. 4.16

7 c By whom he declares his might.

9 d As God is everlasting, so shall their punishment be everlasting: and as he is most mighty of power, so shall their punishment be most sore.

11 e The free benevolence of Gods goodness, comprehendeth his purpose, his predestination and vocation: the work of faith containeth our justification, to the which God addeth glorification: and all these he worketh of his mere grace through Christ.

11 f Faith is Gods wonderful work in us.

^gglorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2

3 He sheweth them that the day of the Lord shall not come, till the departing from the faith come first, 9 And the kingdom of Antichrist. 15 And therefore he exhorteth them not to be deceived, but to stand steadfast in the things that he hath taught them.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our assembling unto him,

2 That ye be not suddenly moved from *your* mind, nor troubled neither by ^aspirit, nor by ^bword, nor by letter, as *it were* from us, as though the day of Christ were at hand.

3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a ^cdeparting first, and that that ^dman of sin be disclosed, *even* the son of ^eperdition,

4 Which is an adversary, and exalteth himself against all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he doeth sit as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what ^fwithholdeth, that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doeth already ^gwork: only he which ^hnow withholdeth, *shall let* till he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall the wicked man be revealed, *whom the Lord shall consume with the ⁱSpirit of his mouth, and shall abolish with the brightness of his coming,

9 *Even him* whose ^kcoming is by the working of Satan, with

12 g As the head with the body.

Chapter 2

2 a As false revelation, or dreams.

2 b Which are spoken or written.

3 *Eph. 5.6

3 c A wonderful departing of the most part from the faith.

3 d This wicked Antichrist comprehendeth the whole succession of the persecutors of the Church, and all that abominable kingdom of Satan, whereof some were bears, some lions, others leopards, as Daniel describeth them, and is called the man of sin because he sets himself up against God.

3 e Who as he destroys others, so shall he be destroyed himself.

6 f Because the false apostles had persuaded after a sort the Thessalonians, that the day of the Lord was near, and so the redemption of the Church, Paul teaches them to look for this horrible dissipation before, and therefore rather to prepare themselves to patience, then to rest and quietness, for as yet there was a let, that is, that the Gospel should be preached throughout all, Mat. 24.14

7 g To wit, privily, and is therefore called a mystery because it is secret.

7 h Which shall stay for a time.

8 *Isa. 11.4

8 i That is, with his word.

9 k Meaning the whole time that he shall remain.

all power and signs, and lying wonders,
 10 And in all deceiveableness of unrighteousness, among them that ^lperish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
 11 And therefore God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe lies,
 12 That all they might be damned which believed not the truth, but had ^mpleasure in unrighteousness.
 13 But we ought to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren ⁿbeloved of the Lord, because that God hath from ^othe beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit, and the faith of ^ptruth,
 14 Whereunto he called you by ^oour Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and keep the ^rinstructions, which ye have been taught, either ^sby word, or by our Epistle.
 16 Now the same Jesus Christ our Lord and our God even the Father which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,
 17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every word and good work.

Chapter 3

1 He desireth them to pray for him, that the Gospel may prosper, 6 And giveth them warning to reprove the idle, 16 And so wisheth them all wealth.

Furthermore, brethren, *pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free passage, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you,
 2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men: for all men have not ^afaith.
 3 But the Lord is faithful, which will stablish you, and keep you from ^bevil.
 4 And we are persuaded of you through the Lord, that ye both do, and will do the things which we ^ccommand you.

10 ^l Satan-s power is limited that he can not hurt the elect to their destruction.
 12 ^m Delighted in false doctrine.
 13 ⁿ The fountain of our election is the love of God: the sanctification of the Spirit, and believing the truth are testimonies of the same election.
 13 ^o Before the foundation of the world.
 13 ^p And Gospel.
 14 ^q By our preaching.
 15 ^r That is, the doctrine, 1 Thess. 2.2, chap. 3.6
 15 ^s That is, by my preaching of the Gospel.

Chapter 3

1 *Ephes. 6.18, Colos 4.3
 2 ^a Although they boast themselves thereof.
 3 ^b From the sleights of Satan.
 4 ^c By the word of God.

5 And the Lord guide your hearts to the love of God, and the waiting for of Christ.
 6 We command you, brethren, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves form every brother that walketh inordinately, and not after the ^dinstruction, which he received of us.
 7 For ye yourselves know *how ye ought to follow us: *for we behaved not ourselves inordinately among you,
 8 Neither took we bread of any man for naught: but we wrought with labor and travail night and day, because we would not be chargeable to any of you,
 9 Not but that we had authority, *but that we might make ourselves an example unto you to follow us.
 10 For even when we were with you, this we warned you of, that if there were any, which would not ^ework, that he should not eat.
 11 For we heard, that there are some which walk among you inordinately, and work not at all, but are busy bodies.
 12 Therefore them that are such, we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that they work with quietness, and eat their own bread.
 13 *And ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.
 14 If any man obey not our sayings, note him by a letter, *and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.
 15 Yet count him not as an ^fenemy, but admonish him as a brother.
 16 Now the Lord of peace give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all.
 17 The salutation of me Paul, with mine own hand, which is the ^gtoken in every Epistle: so I write,
 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all, Amen.

The second *Epistle* to the Thessalonians,
 written from Athens.

6 ^d Which is, to travail, if he will eat, Chap. 2.15
 7 *1 Cor. 4.12, 1 Thess. 4.11
 7 *Acts 20.34, 1 Cor. 4.12, 1 Thess. 2.9
 9 *1 Cor. 11.1
 10 ^e Then by the word of God none ought to live idly, but ought to give himself to some vocation, to get his living by, and to do good to others.
 13 *Gal. 6.9
 14 Mat. 18.17, 1 Cor. 5.9
 15 ^f The end of excommunication is not to drive from the Church such as have fallen, but to win them to the Church by amendment.
 17 ^g Whether they be mine Epistles or other men's.