

FIRST THESSALONIANS

1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We Give Thanks For Your Faith And Love And Endurance

²We are giving-thanks *to* God always for you all while making mention *of you* in our prayers, unceasingly ³remembering your work *of* faith and labor *of* love and endurance *of* hope *in* our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father; ⁴knowing, brothers having been loved by God, your election, ⁵because our good-news did not come to you in word only, but also in power and *in the* Holy Spirit and with great fullness-of-conviction— just as you know what-kind-of *men* we proved-to-be among you for your sake.

For You Became Imitators of Us And Examples To All

⁶And **you** became imitators *of* us and *of* the Lord, having accepted the word in much affliction with *the* joy *of the* Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became *an* example *to* all the *ones* believing in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For from you the word *of* the Lord has sounded-forth— not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith toward God has gone-out— so that we *are* having no need to speak anything! ⁹For they themselves are reporting about us *as to* what-sort-of entrance we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to be serving *the* living and true God, ¹⁰and to be awaiting His Son from the heavens Whom He raised from the dead— Jesus, the *One* delivering us from the coming wrath.

You Know What Kind of Men We Were Among You When We Brought God's Message To You

2:1 For you yourselves know our entrance to you, brothers— that it has not been empty. ²But having previously-suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak the good-news *of* God to you in *a* great conflict. ³For our exhortation *is* not from error, nor from impurity, nor in deceit. ⁴But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted-*with* the good-news, so we speak— not as pleasing people, but God, the *One* testing our hearts. ⁵For neither did we at-any-time come with *a* word *of* flattery, as you know; nor with *a* pretext *for* greed— God *is* witness; ⁶nor seeking glory from people— neither from you, nor from others, ⁷[although] being able to be with weight as apostles *of* Christ. But we proved-to-be child-like in your midst. As when *a* nurse cherishes her children, ⁸in this manner longing-affectionately *for* you, we were well-pleased to impart *to* you not only the good-news *of* God, but also our *own* lives, because you became beloved *ones to* us. ⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and hardship— working *by* night and *by* day so-as not to be *a* burden-on any *of* you, we proclaimed to you the good-news *of* God. ¹⁰You and God *are* witnesses how devoutly and righteously and blamelessly we were *with* you, the *ones* believing— ¹¹just-as you know how each one *of* you, as *a* father his *own* children, ¹²*we were* exhorting you and encouraging and testifying so-that you *might* walk worthily *of* God, the *One* calling you into His *own* kingdom and glory.

And We Thank God You Accepted Our Message As God's Word, Even Amidst Persecution

¹³And for this reason **we** are indeed giving-thanks *to* God unceasingly: because having received *the* word *of* God heard from us, you accepted not *the* word *of* humans, but, as it truly is, *the* word *of* God, which also is at-work in you, the *ones* believing. ¹⁴For **you** became imitators, brothers, *of* the churches *of* God existing in Judea in Christ Jesus, because **you** also suffered the same *things* by *your* own countrymen as they also by the Jews— ¹⁵the *ones* also having killed **the Lord** Jesus and the prophets, and having driven us out, and not being pleasing *to* God, and *being* contrary *to* all people, ¹⁶forbidding us to speak *to* the Gentiles in order that they might be saved, so that *they* fill-up *the* measure *of* their sins always. But the wrath came upon them to the uttermost.

We Sent Timothy To Establish You Amidst Your Afflictions, And That I Might Know Your Faith

¹⁷And **we**, brothers, having been orphaned from you for *a* season *of an* hour *in* face, not *in* heart, were more eager with great desire to see your face. ¹⁸Because we wanted to come to you— **I**, Paul, both once and twice— and Satan hindered us. ¹⁹For what *is* our hope or joy or crown *of* boasting— or *is it* not indeed you!— before our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰For **you** are our glory and joy. **3:1** Therefore, bearing *it* no longer, we preferred to be left-behind in Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and *a* fellow-worker *of* God in the good-news *of* Christ, so that *he might* establish you and encourage *you* concerning your faith, ³that no one *might* be disturbed by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are appointed for this. ⁴For even when we were with you, we were telling you beforehand that we were going to be afflicted, just as indeed it happened, and *just as* you know. ⁵For this reason, and *I* bearing *it* no longer, I sent *Timothy* so as to know your faith— *that* the *one* tempting had not somehow tempted you and our labor proved-to-be in vain.

Timothy Now Returned With Encouraging News About Your Faith And Love. I Am Rejoicing!

⁶And Timothy having just-now come to us from you, and having announced-the-good-news *to* us *as to* your faith and love, and that you have *a* good remembrance *of* us always, yearning to see us just as we also you— ⁷because of this, brothers, we were encouraged over you in all our distress and affliction, through your faith. ⁸Because now we live!— if **you** are standing-*firm* in *the* Lord. ⁹For what thanksgiving can we return *to* God for you for all the joy *with* which we are-rejoicing because of you before our God?— ¹⁰while praying super-abundantly *by* night and *by* day that *we may* see your face and complete the *things* lacking *from* your faith.

May God And Our Lord Jesus Guide Our Ways And Cause Us To Abound In Love

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound *in love* for one another and for everyone (just as we also for you), ¹³so that *He may* establish your hearts *so as to be* blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming *of* our Lord Jesus with all His holy *ones*. Amen.

Brothers, We Ask You To Abound Even More In Holiness, For This Is God's Will

4:1 Finally then, brothers, we ask you, and exhort in *the* Lord Jesus that just as you received from us how you ought-to be walking and pleasing God (just as you also are walking), that you be abounding more. ²For you know what commands we gave *to* you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is *the will of* God: your holiness— *that* you be abstaining from sexual-immorality; ⁴*that* each *of* you know-*how* to acquire *control of* his *own* vessel in holiness and honor, ⁵not in *the* passion *of* desire as indeed the Gentiles not knowing God; ⁶*that* no *one* overstep and exploit his brother in the matter. Because *the* Lord *is* the avenger concerning all these *things*, just as we also told you before and solemnly-warned. ⁷For God did not call us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸So-*therefore* the *one* rejecting is not rejecting a human, but God, the *One* also giving His Holy Spirit to you.

But You Know From God To Love One Another. We Exhort You To Abound Even More

⁹But concerning brotherly-love, you have no need *that anyone should* be writing *to* you. For **you** yourselves are God-taught so-*that you might* be loving one another. ¹⁰For indeed you are doing it toward all the brothers in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brothers, to be abounding more, ¹¹and to be ambitious to be quiet, and to be doing *your own things* and working *with* your own hands just as we commanded you, ¹²in order that you may walk properly toward the *ones* outside and may have need *of* nothing.

Do Not Grieve Over The Dead In Christ. We Will Rise Together To Be With Him Forever

¹³And we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, concerning the *ones* falling-asleep, in-order-*that* you may not grieve as indeed the others— the *ones* not having a hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose-up, so also God will bring with Him the *ones* having fallen asleep through Jesus. ¹⁵For we say this *to* you by *the word of* the Lord, that **we**— the *ones* living, the *ones* remaining until the coming of the Lord— will in-no-way precede the *ones* having fallen asleep. ¹⁶Because the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shouted-command, with a voice *of an* archangel, and with a trumpet *of* God, and the dead in Christ will rise-up first. ¹⁷Then **we**— the *ones* living, the *ones* remaining— will be snatched-up together with them in *the* clouds, to meet the Lord in *the* air. And so we shall always be with *the* Lord. ¹⁸So then, be encouraging one another with these words.

But You Know The Day of The Lord Will Come Like a Thief In The Night, Keep Watching

5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need *that anything should* be written *to* you. ²For you yourselves accurately know that *the day of* the Lord comes in this manner— like a thief in *the* night. ³When they are saying “peace and security”, then unexpected destruction suddenly-comes-upon them, just as the birth-pain *on* the *one* having a *child* in *the* womb. And they will by no means escape. ⁴But **you**, brothers, are not in darkness, so that the day should overtake you like a thief. ⁵For **you** all are sons *of* light and sons *of* day. We are not *of* night, nor *of* darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be sleeping like the others, but let us be keeping-watch and being sober. ⁷For the *ones* sleeping are sleeping *at* night. And the *ones* getting-drunk are-drunk *at* night. ⁸But let **us**, being *of* the day, be sober, having put on a breastplate *of* faith and love, and a helmet: *the hope of* salvation. ⁹Because God did not appoint us for wrath, but for *the* obtaining *of* salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ— ¹⁰the *One* having died for us in order that whether we are keeping-watch or sleeping, we may live together with Him. ¹¹Therefore be encouraging one another and building-up one the other, just as you are also doing.

Esteem Your Leaders in Love

¹²And we ask you, brothers, to know the *ones* laboring among you and leading you in *the* Lord and admonishing you, ¹³and to be esteeming them super-abundantly in love because of their work. Be living-in-peace among yourselves.

Closing Exhortations

¹⁴Now we exhort you, brothers— be admonishing the disorderly *ones*, be encouraging the fainthearted *ones*, be holding-on-to the weak *ones*, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵See *that* no one gives-back evil for evil *to* anyone, but always be pursuing the good, both for one another and for everyone. ¹⁶Be rejoicing always, ¹⁷be praying unceasingly, ¹⁸be giving-thanks in everything. For this *is* *the will of* God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not be quenching the Spirit, ²⁰do not be treating prophecies with contempt, ²¹but be testing all *things*. Be holding-on-to the good, ²²be abstaining from every form *of* evil.

²³Now may the God *of* peace Himself sanctify you wholly. And may your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blamelessly at the coming *of* our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful *is* the *One* calling you, Who also will do *it*. ²⁵Brothers, be praying also for us. ²⁶Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. ²⁷I adjure you *by* the Lord *that* *this* letter be read *to* all the brothers. ²⁸The grace *of* our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.