

# 1 Thessalonians

Translated by Gary Shogren

*Green italics* – prayers

**Red text** – quotations from the Old Testament

## 1:1-10

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

2 We give thanks to God all the time for every one of you, [with gratitude] we speak concerning [you] when we pray,

3 without fail remembering [before God] your work that arises from your believing, and your hard labor that comes from your love [for others], and your endurance that comes from the hope you have, [faith, love and hope] in our Lord Jesus Christ [as you live] in the presence of our God and Father.

4 We acknowledge [before God], brothers and sisters whom God loves, that you were chosen,

5 because the gospel that we brought came to you, not simply as the words [that we spoke] but also with miracles and in [the operation of] the Holy Spirit and in the great sense of certainty [we had in the gospel]. And you know how we were among you for your sake.

6 In your turn you became imitators of [the pattern given by] us and by the Lord [Jesus]. You received the message in highly distressing circumstances, [yet] with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit.

7 As a result you [in your turn] became the pattern for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

8 For you see, from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia but everywhere, news of your faith in God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything [about you].

9 That's because they themselves are talking about us, about what kind of welcome we had from you and how you

*turned away from idols to God,  
to serve the God who is living and true  
and to await his Son from heaven,  
10 he whom [God] raised from the dead,  
Jesus our savior from [God's] coming wrath.*

## 2:1-16

2:1 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that the welcome we had from you was not without good results.

2 Even though we had just suffered and had been badly treated, as you know, in Philippi, still we found courage in our God to communicate to you the gospel of God, in the face of [even more] opposition.

3 Our entreaty to you was not with lies, not with corruption, not with sneaking craftiness.

4 No, in the same way that we have been tested and found worthy by God to be entrusted with his gospel, that's how we communicate [it]: not striving to please people, but rather the God who tests our inner motives.

5 That is to say, we did not come at any time with flattering words, as you know, not with some pretext for greed – God himself is our witness! –

6 not looking for prestige, not from you or from anyone else,

7 even though we could have insisted on acting all important and on being a burden to you, since we are apostles of Christ, instead we took the position of little children among you. [Or if you please] how a wet nurse might cherish her very own little ones;

8 so then, because we had this longing for you, we determined to share with you, not only the gospel of God, but also our very selves, because you had become beloved to us.

9 For you remember, brothers and sisters, our labor and our hardship, how night and day we worked, so as not to be a burden to any one of you; that's how we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses – and so is God! – that we were pleasing [to God], right and blameless with you who came to believe,

11 just as you know, how we were with each one of you, as a father with his own sons and daughters,

12 that's how we entreated you, that's how we comforted you, that's how we implored you to walk worthy of the God who called you into his own glorious kingdom.

13 So, for this reason we give thanks to God without fail: because when you received the proclaimed word from us, [that is, the word] of God, you received it, not as a human message, but as what it really is, the word of God, the same [word] that is active in you believers.

14 You became imitators, brothers and sisters, of God's churches in Judea, [which are] in Christ Jesus, because you also suffered the same things from your fellow-countrymen that they suffered from the Judeans,

15 those who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and persecuted us, and do not live pleasing to God, and are hostile to all,

16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they might be saved;

**for so their sins were at all times such as to warrant [God's wrath];**  
[God's] wrath is upon them unto the end.

## 2:17-3:13

17 Meanwhile we, brothers and sisters, because we were made orphans from you for a time – [orphaned from you] in person, not in our hearts – we made every possible effort to see you in person, with great desire.

18 And so we resolved to go to you – to be sure, I, Paul, more than once – and Satan blocked us.

19 [We wanted to see you], because who gives us hope and joy, or who is a prize to boast of? – if not you all in the presence of our Lord Jesus at his coming.

20 Yes, it is you all who bring us pride and joy.

3:1 And so when we could stand it no longer we determined to be left all alone in Athens,

2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's co-worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen you and encourage you for the sake of your faith,

3 lest in some way you had been shaken by these afflictions. And in fact, you yourselves know that we were destined for this very thing,

4 because even when we were with you, we told you that we would be put through [such] afflictions, just as it took place, as you know.

5 And so, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith, wondering whether the tempter had perhaps tempted you and **our labor had been in vain.**

6 But just now Timothy has come to us from you and has announced the good news of your faith and your love and that you maintain a good memory of us at all times and that you long to see us just as we also long to see you.

7 And in that way we are encouraged about you, brothers and sisters, in the middle of our affliction and distress, because of your faith.

8 That's because, now we are alive if you stand firm in the Lord!

9 What kind of thanksgiving can we repay God concerning you because of all the joy with which we rejoice on account of you before our God?

10 Unreservedly, night and day, we are asking [God] see you in person and to put in order any things that are lacking in your faith.

*11 Now may our God and Father himself  
and our Lord Jesus  
direct our steps to you.*

*12 And may the Lord make you to increase and abound  
in love for one another and for all people  
just as our love does for you.*

*13 So that your entire person be made strong in blamelessness,  
that is, with regard to holiness,*

*before our God and Father,  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus  
with all his holy [angels]. Amen.*

#### **4:1-12**

1 Beyond that, we urge and entreat you in the Lord Jesus, that – just as you received from us [teaching on] how you must conduct your lives in a manner pleasing to God, [in fact] just as you are indeed conducting yourselves – that you might thrive even more.

2 You know what commands we gave you by the Lord Jesus,

3 [that] this is what God desires: your holiness; that you would abstain from immoral sexual practices;

4 that each one of you would know how to control his or her body in holiness and honor,

5 not in lustful passions, just as do the Gentiles, who do not know God;

6 not transgressing by taking advantage of one's brother or sister in such a matter, since the Lord is the one who avenges all situations of this nature, just as we likewise told you and warned you.

7 For [it is] God who called you, not to be impure, but [to live] in holiness.

8 So for that reason, the one who rejects [this command] does not reject human authority, but **God, who has given his Holy Spirit** to us.

9 Now, concerning family love, you do not need us to write [anything] to you. [I say this] because you yourselves are [apparently] taught by God to love one another.

10 And you even practice this toward all the brothers and sisters in all of Macedonia. So, we [simply] entreat you, brothers and sisters, to thrive even more

11 and to make it your ambition to live peaceably, and keep to your own business and work with your own hands, just as we commanded you,

12 in order that you might conduct yourselves properly with respect to those outside [the people of God] and to have no need of anything.

#### **4:13-18**

13 Now – we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who have died, that you might not be in distress, just like other people, who have no hope.

14 If we believe that Jesus died and rose again...well, in the same way, God will gather together with [Jesus] those who have died in him.

15 For we say this to you by an oracle from the Lord, that we who still live and remain here until the Lord's coming will in no way go ahead of those who have died.

16 Because the Lord himself, with the commanding shout of the archangel's voice and with the [sound of the] trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will first be resurrected.

17 Next, we who still live and remain will be taken up together with [those who were dead] in the clouds to welcome the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

18 So then, encourage one another with these words.

### **5:1-11**

1 Now, concerning times and dates, brothers and sisters, you have no need [for us] to write you,

2 because you yourselves know perfectly well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 When they will be saying, "Peace and Security," then unexpected destruction will befall them, [sudden] as birth-pains on a pregnant woman, and **they will in no way escape**.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would surprise you like a thief.

5 For you are all children of light and the children of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness.

6 So then, let us not let ourselves fall asleep, as do other people, but let us keep alert and exercise self-control.

7 [I say this because] those who fall asleep do so at night and those who get drunk do so at night.

8 But because we belong to the day, let us exercise self-control – let us put on faith and love as a breastplate and as a **helmet the sure expectation of our [coming] salvation**.

9 [This is the confidence we have] because God has not assigned us to feel [his coming] wrath, but rather to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us,

10 so that, whether we are [still] keeping alert or whether we have [already] died, we shall live together with him.

11 So then, encourage and build up one another, just as you are already doing.

### 5:12-22

12 And now we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and who lead you in the Lord and admonish you,  
13 and to esteem them profoundly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

14 [For your part], we ask you, brothers and sisters: admonish the disruptive.  
Comfort the discouraged.  
Stand by the weak.  
Be patient toward everyone.

15 See to it that no-one returns evil for evil, but at all times [you are to] pursue good, to one another and to all people.

16 Rejoice always.

17 Pray without fail.

18 In everything give thanks,  
for this is the will of God in Christ for you.

19 Do not stifle the Spirit.

20 Do not disdain prophetic messages.

21 But rather put all [of these] to the test.

Hold on to what is proven good.

22 Keep away from every sort of evil.

### 5:23-28

*23 And now may God himself, the source of peace, make all of you perfectly holy; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept perfectly without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

24 [The God] who calls you is faithful, that is, he who will do it.

25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us too.

26 Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss.

27 I put you under oath by the Lord [Jesus] to have this epistle read [aloud] to all the brothers and sisters.

*28 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*