

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE
TO THE
THESSALONIANS.

The Salutation.

1 **P** PAUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy,
to the assembly of Thessalonians,
in God the Father, and the Lord
Jesus Christ : Blessing and
peace to you.

The Apostle's Thanksgiving.

2 We give thanks to God always con-
cerning you, mentioning you contin-
3 ually in our prayers ; remembering
your faithful work, your loving labour,
and your hopeful endurance in the
4 path of our Lord Jesus Christ, before
our God and Father ; recognising,
5 dear friends, your selection by God.
Because our gospel came not as mere
talk among you, but with power and
with a holy spirit, and a grand result ;
6 as you know by means of yourselves
what we were among you. And you
became imitators of us, and of the
7 Lord, accepting the message in great
suffering, with the delight of a holy
8 spirit ; so that you were models to
all the believers in Macedonia and in
9 Achaia. For from you the message of
the Lord has been echoed abroad, not
only throughout Macedonia and
Achaia, but in all parts your faith
towards God has extended, so that
10 we had no need to speak anything ;
because those about us announced
what an entrance we made in to you,
and how you turned from your idols
to God, to serve a living and true
11 God ; and to await His Son from the
heavens, Whom He raised from the
dead—Jesus, our Deliverer from the
terror of the future.

**Their Frank Acceptance of the
Gospel.**

2 For you yourselves, brethren, know
that our assault upon you was not
3 ineffectual. But although previously
tortured and insulted in Philippi, as
you know, we were bold enough in
our God to speak to you in great
4 agony, the Good News of God. For
our exhortation is not from impos-

ture, neither with corruption, nor
with deceit ; but as we have been 4
proved under God to be believers in
the Good News, so we speak : not as
pleasing men, but, on the contrary,
God, Who proves our hearts. For we 5
were never flatterers in speech, as you
are aware ; nor hypocritical seekers
of wealth—God is witness—nor yet 6
seeking honour from men, neither
from you, nor from others, although
able to assert our dignity as apostles of
Christ. On the contrary, we were as 7
gentle when among you as a mother
fondling her own child. We loved 8
you so much, that we thought good
not only to give you the Good News of
God, but also our own lives ; because
you became so dear to us. For you 9
may remember, brethren, our labour
and toil ; we worked night and day,
so as not to be any burden to you,
when we preached the gospel of God
among you.

You and God are witnesses how 10
purely, righteously, and blamelessly,
we were with you believers ; for you 11
are aware that even as a father his
own children, so we encouraged and
cheered and entreated each one of
you, to conduct yourselves worthy of 12
the God Who called you into His
glorious kingdom.

And for this especially we thank 13
God continually, that having received
a reason for listening to us concerning
God, you accepted it ; not as a human
reason, but as it truly is, a Divine
reason, and which operates upon the
believers among you. For you, 14
brethren, have become exactly like
the believers in the assemblies of
God in Christ Jesus who are in Judea,
since you suffer the same under your
own countrymen as they from the
Judeans : who wearied to death the 15
Lord Jesus and the prophets ; and
drove us out ; and are displeasing to
God, as well as contrary to all men ;
prohibiting us to tell to the heathen 16
that they could be saved—everywhere

filling up their sins; but their fury will at last come upon themselves.

His Affection for them.

17 But we, brothers, having been separated from you for the space of an hour in person—not in heart—have striven very eagerly with great desire to see your face. Indeed, we wished on two occasions to come to you, that is I, Paul; but Satan prevented us. For who is our hope, or joy, or crown of triumph—if you are not—in the presence of our Lord Jesus, when He will appear? You are certainly our boast and delight.

3 So, enduring it no longer, we decided to be left alone in Athens; and sent Timothy, our brother and fellow-labourer for God in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so as not to be shaken by these sufferings, to which you are aware that we are exposed. For, indeed, while we were with you we foretold that there would be troubles; and, as you see, they have come.

5 Consequently, without delay I have sent to learn about your faith, fearing the Tempter had over-ried you, and that our work had been for nothing. 6 But when Timothy came from you to us, and reported the good news of your faith and love, and that you always retained a pleasant memory of us, wishing to see us, just as we do you; then we were consoled, brethren, by you, by your faith, for all our hardship and suffering. For now we live, if you stand in the Lord. 9 For what thanks can we render to God for you—for all the delight with which we rejoice for you in the presence of our God? Night and day earnestly wishing to see your face, and to supply the requirements of your faith. May our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, facilitate our journey to you! And may the Lord fill you to overflowing with love to one another, and to all, as we indeed are to you; to establish your hearts in spotless holiness before our God and Father, at the appearance of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

On Purity of Life.

4 Therefore, for the rest, brethren, we ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus,

that since you learnt by us how you ought to walk and please God—even as also you do walk—that you may progress further. For you know what commands coming from the Lord Jesus we gave you. For this is the intention of the God Who purified you, that you keep from fornication: that each of you should know how to keep his own vessel in purity and honour, not in a passion of lust, like the heathen who know not God; neither outrage nor deceive your brother in this matter: for there is an avenging Lord for all these, as we indeed told and bore witness to you. For God called you not to impurity, but to purity. Consequently, it is quite certain that the offender outrages not man, but God Who gave you His Holy Spirit.

On Brotherly Love.

But concerning brotherly love, you have no need to be written to; for you yourselves are Divinely instructed to love one another: and, indeed, you practise it to all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we beg you, brethren, to progress still further: and be ambitious of quietude, and to attend to your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we have before taught you; so that you may be well conducted before the outsiders, and have need of nothing.

The Coming of the Lord.

We desire you not to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who sleep; so that you may not grieve, as the rest who are without a hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, thus also God will, by means of Jesus, restore with Him those who are asleep. For we say this to you as a message from the Lord, that we, the living, the survivors until the appearance of the Lord, will not precede those who sleep. For the Lord Himself in command, with the voice of an archangel, and with a signal from God, will descend from heaven; and first the dead in Christ will rise again; then we, the living remnant, shall at the same time be carried up in clouds for an introduction by the Lord into the eternal condition, and then we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore console one another with these truths.

5 But about the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need for
 2 writing to you; for yourselves know well enough that the day of the Lord
 3 comes like a thief at night. When they say, "Peace and security," then, suddenly, destruction seizes them, as the agony of a woman with child; and they cannot escape.
 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that that day should seize you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are neither
 5 of night nor of darkness. Consequently, we do not sleep as the rest; but we keep guard and are sober.
 6 For the sleepers sleep at night, and the drunkards are drunk at night.
 7 But we, being of day, are sober, clothed in a breastplate of faith and love, and a helmet—a hope of salvation. For God appointed us not for
 8 passion; but, on the contrary, for the acquisition of salvation through our
 9 Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for our sakes, so that, whether watching or sleeping, we may live together with
 10 Him. Therefore comfort yourselves mutually, and build yourselves up into oneness—as also you do.

The Divine Life.

12 And we request you, brothers, to recognise those labouring among you, and leading you in the Lord, and instructing you; and esteem them with
 13 special love, because of their work.

Be at peace among yourselves; but we beg of you, brethren, correct the disorderly; encourage the timid; help the weak; forbear with all.

Guard against any returning wrong for wrong to any one; on the contrary, always follow good, both to one another, and to all.

Rejoice at all times; 16

Pray unceasingly; 17

Give thanks for everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 18

Quench not the Spirit; 19

Nor despise preaching; 20

But, examining everything, 21

Secure the noble,

And refrain from every appearance of wickedness. 22

And the God of peace Himself purify you perfectly, and keep your spirit, and the soul, and the body, spotless for the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. He Who called you is faithful, and He will effect it. 24

Pray for us, friends. 25

Give regards to all the brethren with a holy kiss. 26

I charge you by the Lord to make this letter known to all our friends. 27

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

(Addressed to the Thessalonians by Paul, in the name of himself, Silas, and Timothy, from Corinth, in the earlier part of the year 53 A.D.)

NOTE.—This letter was evidently of later date than 53 A.D., and, from internal evidence (see s. iii., v. 1), was written from Athens during a visit not recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The old chronology put to the Epistles is often wrong, and was the estimate of comparatively modern transcribers.—F. F.

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Greeting.

1 **P**AUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy, to the assembly of Thessalonians, in our God, Father, and Lord
 2 Jesus Christ: Blessing and peace to you from God our Father, and Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle's Thanksgiving.

We ought rightly to give thanks to God always for you, friends, as it is fitting; because your faith abounds beyond measure, and love fills all of you mutually; so that we ourselves boast in the assemblies of God 4