

Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians

Salutation (1:1)

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

The Thessalonians' Faith and Model (1:2–10)

2 We always thank God for all of you, constantly making mention of you in our prayers. 3 We remember your faithful work, your labor of love, and your steadfast hope in our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father. 4 We know, brothers and sisters who are loved by God, that you are chosen 5 because our gospel did not come to you only with words but also with power and with the Holy Spirit and with great conviction, just as you know what kind of people we were among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and the Lord, receiving the word in great tribulation with the joy inspired by the Holy Spirit 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has echoed forth not only in Macedonia and Achaia but everywhere your faith in God has gone forth so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For, concerning us, they themselves tell what kind of welcome we had from you and how you turned away from idols to God to serve the living and true God 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

Concerning the Missionaries' Motives (2:1–6)

2:1 Now you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not in vain. 2 But even after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you are aware, we had the courage in our God to proclaim the gospel of God in the face of great opposition. 3 For the

appeal we make is not based on deception or impure motives or cunning. 4 On the contrary, we speak as men who God has found worthy to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who examines our hearts. 5 For we never came using flattering speech, as you well know, nor were we motivated by greed—God is our witness. 6 We did not seek the honor of men, neither from you nor from others,

Concerning the Missionaries' Maintenance (2:7–9)

7 although we could have wielded our authority as Apostles of Christ, but instead, we were gentle among you like a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So deep was our affection for you we determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our very own souls, because you had become so dearly beloved by us. 9 For you remember, brothers and sisters, our labor and hardship. We labored night and day so that we would not be a burden to any one of you as we preached the gospel of God.

Concerning the Missionaries' Behavior (2:10–12)

10 Both you and God are witnesses of how devoutly, justly, and blamelessly we behaved among you who believed. 11 As you know, we treated each and every one of you like a father treats his children. 12 We encouraged you, consoled you, and implored you to conduct yourselves worthily before God who calls you to his own kingdom and glory.

The Human Opposition to God's Word (2:13–16)

13 For this we also give thanks to God constantly, that when you accepted the word of God that you heard from us, you did not receive it as the word of men, but instead you welcomed it even as it truly is, the word of God that operates in you who believe. 14 For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God that are in Judea in Christ Jesus, in that you yourselves suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they also did from the Jews, 15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets and drove us out and did not please God and oppose all people, 16 who hinder us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they might be saved, to always fill up the measure of their sins. But God's strong indignation has finally come upon them.

Paul's Desire to Visit the Church Again (2:17–20)

17 But when we were separated from you, brothers and sisters, for a short time, in person not in thought, we became all the more eager to see your face with a great desire. 18 Therefore, we wanted to come to you (I, Paul, tried several times), but Satan prevented us. 19 For who is our hope and our joy and our crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it indeed not you? 20 For you are our glory and our joy.

The Reason for Timothy's Mission (3:1–5)

3:1 So when we could no longer endure it, we resolved to remain in Athens alone 2 and sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow-worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen you and encourage you for the sake of your faith 3 so that no one would be shaken in these trials. For you yourselves know that we are appointed for this purpose. 4 For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you that we were going to suffer afflictions, just as has happened, as you know. 5 Therefore, when I also could no longer endure it, I sent to find out about your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you and that our labor had been in vain.

Timothy's Encouraging Report (3:6–9)

6 But now Timothy has come to us from you and brought us the good news of your faith and love and that you always think of us affectionately and desire to see us just as we also desire to see you. 7 Therefore, we have been comforted concerning you, brothers and sisters, in view of all our distress and tribulation because of your faith, 8 for now we live if you stand firm in the Lord. 9 So then what thanks can we offer to God for you in return for all the joy we have felt because of you before our God?

Paul's Prayer for the Saints (3:10–13)

10 Night and day we pray most earnestly to see your face and complete what is lacking in your faith. 11 And may God himself, even our Father, and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for each other and for all people, just as we do for you, 13 to establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ together with all his saints.