

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA

{*The first letter to the church at Thessalonica apparently did not calm all the fears on the part of the people of Thessalonica concerning the end time. As a result Paul wrote a second letter to alleviate their fears and to urge them to continue in their work.*}

CHAPTER I SALUTATION

<II Thessalonians 1:1-2>

1. Paul, Silas <*The Semitic form of the name Silvanus. The name means, "wooded".*> and Timothy : <*The name means, "one who honors God".*> To the Church of the Thessalonians <*An important city in Macedonia. It is the site of the present day city of Salonika, Greece.*> who belong to God our Father and to Jesus Christ our Lord. 2 Grace be to you and peace from God the [Father and the Lord]¹ Jesus Christ.

THE JUDGMENT AT CHRIST'S COMING

<II Thessalonians 1:3-12>

3 We are always duty bound (*or, obligated*) to give thanks to God for you, our friends (*literally, brothers*), which is proper because your faith is increasing abundantly and your mutual love toward one another is growing 4 so that we, ourselves, boast about you among the Churches of God because of your perseverance and your faith in the midst of all the persecutions and distresses you are enduring. 5 These are the plain indications of God's righteous judgment in order that you might be considered worthy of the Kingdom of God on which account you are experiencing these sufferings.

6 Furthermore, it is the righteous thing for God to do, to repay with affliction those who oppress you, 7 while God provides relief (*or, rest*) <*Interestingly, the Greek word is "ανεστιν" from which the name of a popular pain killer no doubt was derived.*> to those who have been afflicted (*or, oppressed*) and to us as well, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the mighty angels of His power. 8 He will come with fire flaming about Him to execute vengeance (*or, as the one who punishes*) those who do not acknowledge God and who do not obey the Good News about our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction and be separated from the Lord's presence and His mighty glory 10 whenever He comes, that His mighty glory might be shown in His saints and be marveled at by all believers on that day because our testimony to you has been believed.

11 It is for this reason that we continually pray on your behalf, asking that our God will count you worthy of His call and that by His power He might bring about fulfillment of every desire for goodness and every work of faith (*or, faith inspired work*) 12 in order that the name of our Lord Jesus might be glorified in you and you in Him by virtue of the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER II THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

1 {C} So: B, D, P, 0111, several minuscules & Old Latin manuscripts. "our Father and Lord" Aleph, A, G, I, K, many minuscules, Old Latin, Harclean Syriac, Sahadic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. Father and our Lord" Palestinian Syriac. "Our Father and our Lord" Bohairic Coptic.

<II Thessalonians 2:1-11>

¹ We request of you, my friends (*literally, brothers*), concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to meet Him: ² do not allow your minds to be easily shaken or disturbed (*or, frightened*) whether by a spirit, a word or even a letter which is purported to come from us, saying that the Day of the Lord has already come. ³ Do not let anyone deceive you in any way! First comes the apostasy and then the appearing of the Man of [Lawlessness (*or, sin*)] ² is to be revealed: the Son of Destruction (*or, annihilation*) ⁴ who insolently sets himself against every so called divinity or object of worship, even to the extent of [taking his seat] ³ in the temple of God, proclaiming that he, himself, is God. ⁵ Don't you remember when I was still with you I told you of this? ⁶ Now you know about what restrains him so that he will not be revealed until his appointed time comes. ⁷ For the hidden principle of lawlessness is already at work but is working in secret only until the one who now restrains, no longer does so. ⁸ When this takes place the Lawless One will be revealed, whom the Lord [Jesus] ⁴ [will kill (*or, annihilate*)] ⁵ with the breath of His mouth and He will overwhelm him by the radiance of His coming. ⁹ The appearing of the Lawless One is in accord with Satan's works, with great power, signs and miracles all of which are false, ¹⁰ along with every kind of deception for those who are on their way to destruction because they did not welcome (*or, refused*) the love of truth so that they might be saved. ¹¹ It is for this reason that God sends them a mighty delusion that they might believe the falsehood. ¹² Therefore all who have not believed the truth but instead have taken pleasure in that which is unrighteous will receive judgment.

CHOSEN FOR SALVATION

<II Thessalonians 2:13-17>

¹³ Thanks to God is always due on your behalf, because you are friends (*literally, brothers*) of God since God chose you [from the beginning] ⁶ for salvation through the Spirit's sanctifying influence and by faith in the truth. ¹⁴ It was for this purpose that God called you by means of the Good News which we have preached so that you might attain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ Therefore stand firm my friends (*literally, brothers*) and hold fast to the traditions you have been taught by us, be they oral or in writing. ¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father who has loved us and has graciously bestowed upon us, by virtue of His grace, eternal comfort and well-founded hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and give you strength always to be able to do and to speak all that is good.

CHAPTER III

PRAY FOR US

<II Thessalonians 3:1-5>

¹ In addition, my friends (*literally, brothers*), pray for us in order that the Word (*or, message*) of the Lord might spread rapidly, being [received] ⁷ and being glorified just as it has been glorified among you. ² Pray also that we might be delivered from evil (*or, improper*) and malicious persons

2 {C} So: Aleph, B, a number of minuscules, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. "sinfulness" A, D, G, K, P, Psi, many other minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac & Ethiopic.

3 {B} So: Aleph, A, B, D in the original hand, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. "sits as God" D in the third corrective hand, K & in variant form 1984 & 1985.

4 {C} So: Aleph, A, D in the original hand, G, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. Omitted by B, D in the third corrective hand, K & some minuscules.

5 {C} So: A, B, P & many minuscules. "consume" D in the third corrective hand, H, K, Psi & many other minuscules. Other variants also occur.

6 {C} So: Aleph, D, K, Psi many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta Syriac, Sahidic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopian. "first fruits" B, G & five minuscules.

7 {D} Alternative forms of the word "receive" are used in some manuscripts.

(literally, men). This is necessary for not everyone has faith. ³ The Lord, however, is faithful. He will provide you with strength and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ By means of the Lord we are able to have confidence in you <i.e. because of your steadfast faith> in the Lord, and that you are accomplishing and will continue to accomplish the working out of your faith in accordance with our instructions. ⁵ May the Lord guide your hearts to the love of God, where steadfastness (or, patience) is to be found. <The word "found" , "παραινγγελλομεν", gives a sense of instruction that is accompanied with personal action.>

WARNING AGAINST IDLENESS

<II Thessalonians 3:6-15>

⁶ In the Lord's name we instruct (or, command) you, my friends (literally, brothers): stand aloof of all (literally, brothers) who are living in a idle manner <i.e. are lazy> instead of observing the instructions you have received from us. ⁷ You, yourselves, are well aware that you should follow (or, model yourselves after) us <i.e. our example> because we did not live in an idle manner during our time in your midst ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. Instead we toiled and labored (or, did difficult and strenuous work) night and day in order that we might not be a burden to you (or, impose on you). ⁹ We did this, not because we had no right to such support but rather that we might set an example in order that you might imitate us. ¹⁰ While we were with you we gave you the injunction: 'If anyone does not wish to work, then neither should he eat.' ¹¹ Now we hear that there are some of you within the faith community who live in a manner that shows neglect of your duties, doing no work but rather being idle busybodies. ¹² We call upon persons like this and instruct them in the Lord Jesus Christ to quietly go on about their business and thus earn their own living. <Expecting the return of Christ at any moment some of the Christians in Thessalonica apparently ceased working in order that they might await the imminent return of Christ.> ¹³ My friends (literally, brothers) do not become tired of doing good. ¹⁴ If there is anyone who refuses to heed the instructions that have just been included in this letter, take note of that person (literally, man) and avoid that person's company so that he might become ashamed of himself. ¹⁵ Yet, I do not regard such a person as an enemy but admonish him as one who would admonish a friend (literally, a brother).

BENEDICTION

<II Thessalonians 3:16-18>

¹⁶ May the Lord who is the giver of peace, Himself bestow upon you peace in every [way (or, manner).] ⁸ The Lord be with you all!

¹⁷ I write this greeting with my own hand **Paul** for this is the mark of genuineness in every letter of mine. This is the way I write. ¹⁸ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all [Amen.] ⁹

SUBSCRIPTION

{*"To the Thessalonians, II" Aleph, B in the original hand, Psi & with minor variants, D, F, & G. "To the Thessalonians, II, written in Athens" A, B in the first corrective hand, P, 0278, 1739 in the original hand & the majority text. 81 adds, "by Paul, Sylvanus (or, Silas) and Timothy."* "To the

⁸ {B} So: Aleph, A in the third corrective hand, B, D in the third corrective hand, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic. This word in Greek is τροπω. The word τροπω meaning "place" is found in the original hands of A, D, G & minuscule 33 (9th century).

⁹ {C} So: Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, D, G, K, P, Psi, 20 minuscules, Old Latin, Sahidic & some Bohairic Coptic. Omitted by Aleph in the original hand, B, two minuscules, many Old Latin, Peshitta Harclean Syriac & Bohairic Coptic.

Thessalonians, II, written in Rome" D (also numbered 06, a 6th century manuscript) , 614, 1739 in the margin. Minor variants occur in 323, 365, 629, 630, 954, 1505, 1881 & 2464. The Peshitta Syriac says, "it is written in Pisidian Laodicea". }