



2 THESSALONIANS

GREETING

1 ¹From Paul, Silas, and Timothy.
To the church at Thessalonica united with God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²Good will^a and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours!

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE THESSALONIANS

³We always have to thank God for you, brothers and sisters. It's right to do this because your faith is showing remarkable growth and your love for each other is increasing. ⁴That's why we brag in God's churches about your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and suffering you are experiencing. ⁵Your suffering proves that God's judgment is right and that you are considered worthy of his kingdom.

⁶Certainly, it is right for God to give suffering to those who cause you to suffer. ⁷It is also right for God to give all of us relief from our suffering. He will do this when the Lord Jesus is revealed, *coming* from heaven with his mighty angels in a blazing fire. ⁸He will take revenge on those who refuse to acknowledge God and on those who refuse to respond to the Good News about our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will pay the penalty by being destroyed forever, by being separated from the Lord's presence and from his glorious power. ¹⁰This will happen on that day when he comes to be honored among all his holy people and admired by all who have believed in him. This includes you because you believed the testimony we gave you.

¹¹With this in mind, we always pray that our God will make you worthy of his call. We also pray that through *his* power he will help you accomplish every good desire and help you do everything your faith produces. ¹²That way the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored among you. Then, because of the good will of Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, you will be honored by him.

DON'T BE DECEIVED ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD

2 ¹Brothers and sisters, we have this request to make of you about our Lord Jesus Christ's coming and our gathering to meet him. ²Don't get upset right away or alarmed when someone claims that we said through some spirit, conversation, or letter that the day of the Lord has already come. ³Don't let anyone deceive you about this in any way. *That day cannot come unless, a revolt takes place first, and the man of sin, the man of destruction, is revealed.* ⁴He opposes every so-called god or anything that is worshiped and places himself above them, sitting in God's temple and claiming to be God.

⁵Don't you remember that I told you about these things when I was still

^a1:2 Or "Grace."

NOVEMBER 24

2 Thessalonians 1:1–2:17

Paul wrote a second letter to the Thessalonians. A false teacher had convinced some of the Christians in this city that Jesus had already returned. Paul corrected that error and gave them a proper understanding of Jesus' second coming.





with you? ⁶You know what it is that now holds him back, so that he will be revealed when his time comes. ⁷The mystery of this sin is already at work. But it cannot work effectively until the person now holding it back gets out of the way. ⁸Then the man of sin will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will destroy him by what he says. When the Lord Jesus comes, his appearance will put an end to this man.

⁹The man of sin will come with the power of Satan. He will use every kind of power, including miraculous and wonderful signs. But they will be lies. ¹⁰He will use everything that God disapproves of to deceive those who are dying, those who refused to love the truth that would save them. ¹¹That's why God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe a lie. ¹²Then everyone who did not believe the truth, but was delighted with what God disapproves of, will be condemned.

PAUL ENCOURAGES THE THESSALONIANS

¹³We always have to thank God for you, brothers and sisters. You are loved by the Lord and we thank God that in the beginning he chose you to be saved through a life of spiritual devotion and faith in the truth. ¹⁴With this in mind he called you by the Good News which we told you so that you would obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Then, brothers and sisters, firmly hold on to the traditions we taught you either when we spoke to you or in our letter.

¹⁶God our Father loved us and by his kindness^a gave us everlasting encouragement and good hope. Together with our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁷may he encourage and strengthen you to do and say everything that is good.

PAUL'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE THESSALONIANS

3 ¹Finally, brothers and sisters, pray that we spread the Lord's word rapidly and that it will be honored the way it was among you. ²Also pray that we may be rescued from worthless and evil people, since not everyone shares

our faith. ³But the Lord is faithful and will strengthen you and protect you against the evil one.

⁴The Lord gives us confidence that you are doing and will continue to do what we ordered you to do. ⁵May the Lord direct your lives as you show God's love and Christ's endurance.

⁶Brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we order you not to associate with any believer who doesn't live a disciplined life and doesn't follow the tradition you received from us. ⁷You know what you must do to imitate us. We lived a disciplined life among you. ⁸We didn't eat anyone's food without paying for it. Instead, we worked hard and struggled night and day in order not to be a burden to any of you. ⁹It's not as though we didn't have a right to receive support. Rather, we wanted to set an example for you to follow. ¹⁰While we were with you, we gave you the order: "Whoever doesn't want to work shouldn't be allowed to eat."

¹¹We hear that some of you are not living disciplined lives. You're not working, so you go around interfering in other people's lives. ¹²We order and encourage such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to pay attention to their own work so they can support themselves. ¹³Brothers and sisters, we can't allow ourselves to get tired of doing what is right.

¹⁴It may be that some people will not listen to what we say in this letter. Take note of them and don't associate with them so that they will feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet, don't treat them like enemies, but instruct them like brothers and sisters.

^a2:16 Or "grace."

Today

Ask God to help you use your time well until he returns. Prayerfully evaluate the time you spend at work, at church, with your family, and doing a hobby. Ask him what changes you should make.



NOVEMBER 25

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for him and encouraged them to follow his example of being disciplined and hard-working.



FAREWELL

¹⁶May the Lord of peace give you his peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

¹⁷I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand. In every letter that I send, this is proof that I wrote it.

¹⁸The good will^a of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

Today

Ask God to help you work hard at your job. Resist the temptation to waste time.



^a3:18 Or "grace."

