

## The Second Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians

*This second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians was written about A.D. 51-52, and was sent from Corinth soon after his first letter. Some members of the congregation in Thessalonica did not have a clear understanding of Paul's teaching concerning the "Day of the Lord" in his first epistle to them (1 Thess. 5:1-11). There was also a misunderstanding among some of the people regarding the imminent return of the Lord Jesus. They apparently had misinterpreted the meaning of the phrase "as a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2) and confused the concepts of the suddenness of the Lord's coming with its immediacy. The thought that since Christ would be coming soon, there was no point in continuing to work. When the people encountered increased persecution, they felt that the "Day of the Lord" had already come and they had somehow missed Christ's return.*

*Paul corrects them in this second epistle by explaining that certain events must take place before Christ will return. For example, he states that there will be a worldwide rebellion against God, led by one who will represent the epitome of lawlessness and anarchy (2 Thess. 2:3-9).*

*Moreover, Paul tells the believers in Thessalonica not to live at the expense of others, but to return to the Lord's work (2 Thess. 3:10-12).*

*In summary, the Thessalonians were apprehensive about the persistent persecution that they were enduring (2 Thess. 1:4-5). Paul wrote this letter to comfort and exhort these believers to continue serving the Lord in spite of the hardships. (Key Word, page 1490)*

*(Today there are many who are still confused by Paul's letters to Thessalonians.)*

### Chapter 1

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### ***We Know You Are Suffering***

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

*Revelations 6:*

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

*Revelations 14:*

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*Revelations 21:8* But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

*Psalms 89:7* God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Chapter 2

### *The Day of Christ*

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

*Gathering together 1997, ep-ee-soon-ag-o-gay'; from 1996; a complete collection; specially a Christian meeting (for worship): -assembling (gathering) together.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:*

*17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.*

*18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

*19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?*

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

*1 Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

*Deceive 1818, ex-ap-at-ah'-o, from 1537 and 538; to seduce wholly: -beguiled, deceive.*

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

*Paul refers here t he Holy Spirit as the restraining force in this world, restricting the many little "antichrists" existing today (1 John 2:18), as well as the final Antichrist. In verse six, the Holy Spirit is called to' katechon (3588, 2722) or "that (which) withholdeth." This uses the neuter in the neuter (John 14:26). gender and corresponds t the phrase to Pneuma (3588, 4151), "the Spirit," also in the neuter (John 14:26). In verse seven, it is ho katechon, "he who letteth," denoting that the Antichrist will never be able to do anything without the specific permission of the Holy Spirit. Of course, verse seven does not refer to a departure of the Holy Spirit, but to the removal of His restricting power. This will allow Satan and ht Antichrist to have free reign on the earth, but whatever happens will help to further God's plan according to His own timetable. (Key Word, page 14910*

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

*In this verse there are three word that explain supernatural manifestations or miracles: du-namis (1411), semeion (4592), and teras (5059). Observe how the miracles mentioned in this*

*verse are accomplished by the power of Satan. Miracle working is not necessarily evidence of God's power (Acts 19:13, cf. Ex. 7:22). (Key Word, pages 1491-1492)*

*Verses 3-9, The "man of sin" is called the Antichrist in other Scripture passages (1 John 2:18; 4:3; 2 John 1:7). The preposition anti (473), indicates this man's opposition to, not a replacement of Christ (Dan. 7:7, 8, 21; Matt. 24:15; Rev. 13:1-18). The characteristic of this individual is that he "opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped" (v.4). He will be a miracle worker and even claim to be God. His coming will be "after the working of Satan" (v.9), but it will not be Satan. It is clear that Paul thinks that Satan is not concerned with the past, but with the future. Paul does not see the world evolving gradually into a perfected state, but the fact of evil continuing right up until the end. At that time, evil will make its greatest challenge to good, and the forces of evil will be led by a mysterious figure. This person will be empowered by Satan and is the instrument of Satan's climactic challenge to the things of God. Paul predicts that Christ will consume the "man of sin....with the spirit of his mouth" (vv.3,8). At that tie Satan and all of his conspirators will be defeated. (Key Word, page 1491)*

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

*Revelations 13:*

*1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.  
2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

*3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

*4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

*5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

*6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*

*7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

*8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

*9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.*

*10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

*11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

### **Stand Firm**

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

*Revelations 1:5* And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

## **Chapter 3**

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

## “Be Not Weary in Well Doing”

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

*Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.*

16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. (*The second epistle to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.*)

## References

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