

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the Congregation of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers, recalling before God our Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, beloved brothers, how you were chosen by God, that our Gospel came to you, not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know how we lived among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received The Word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you the Word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your Faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves report about us what kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the Living and True God, and to wait for his Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. For you yourselves know, dear brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain; but even though we had previously suffered and been reviled in Philippi, as you know, we were still joyful in our God to proclaim to you the Gospel of God with great struggles. For our exhortation does not come from error, nor from impurity, nor with deceit; but as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but God, who tests our hearts. For, as you know, we never used flattering words, nor did we use a pretext of greed; God is our witness, nor have we sought honor from men, either from you or from others, though we could have asserted our authority as Apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother caring for her own children. So we were delighted with you and were willing to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own lives, because we had come to love you. You remember, dear brothers, our toil, and hardship; for we worked night and day, so that we might not be a burden to any of you, and we proclaimed to you the Gospel of God. You are witnesses of this, and God knows how holy, righteous, and blameless we were among you who believe, as you know that we exhorted, comforted, and implored each one of you, as a father does his children, to walk worthy of God, who called you into his Kingdom and Glory. Therefore, we thank God unceasingly that when you received the Word of Divine Proclamation from us, you did not accept it as the word of men, but, as it truly is, as the Word of God, which also works in you who believe. For you, dear brothers, have become imitators of the Congregations of God in Judea in Christ Jesus, because you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who also killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and persecuted us, and displease God and oppose all men, and prevent us from preaching to the Gentiles so that they may be saved, in order that they may fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. But we, dear brothers, after being separated from you for a short time, in person but not in heart, have made every effort to see you again. That is why we wanted to come to you, I, Paul, twice, and Satan prevented us. For what is our Hope or Joy or Crown of Glory, are not even you in the Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Coming? For you are our Glory and Joy. Therefore, we could no longer bear it and decided to remain in Athens alone, sending Timothy, our brother and Servant of God and our Helper in the Gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your Faith, so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you know that we are destined for this. And when we were with you, we told you in advance that we would have afflictions, as has happened, as you know. Therefore, I could no longer bear it and sent to inquire about your Faith, lest the tempter had tempted you and our labor had been in vain. But now that Timothy has come to us from you and has told us about your Faith and Love, and that you always remember us fondly and long to see us, just as we long to see you, we have been comforted in all our affliction and distress by your Faith, for now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord. For how can we thank God for all the Joy we have before our God because of you? We pray day and night that we may see your face and make up for any lack in your Faith. But

God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ will direct our way to you. And may the Lord increase you and the Love between you and all others, just as we also feel it for you, so that your hearts may be strengthened and be blameless in Holiness before God and our Father when our Lord Jesus Christ returns with all his Saints. Now, dear brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus to continue to grow in what you have learned from us, namely, how to live and please God. For you know what Commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the Will of God, your Sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in Sanctification and Honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is avenger in all these things, as we have told you before and testified. For God did not call us to impurity, but to Holiness. Whoever disregards this disregards not man, but God, who also gave his Holy Spirit to you. We do not need to write to you about brotherly love, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. And you do so toward all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to grow even more in these things, to be quiet, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, so that you may walk honestly before those who are outside and not be dependent on anyone. But we do not want you, brothers, to be ignorant about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so too will God bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. We tell you this according to the Word of the Lord: We who are alive and remain until the Coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from Heaven with a Command, with the Voice of the Archangel, and with the Trumpet of God, and the Dead in Christ will Rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these Words. But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "Peace and safety," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, dear brothers, are not in darkness, so that the day should surprise you like a thief. You are all Children of Light and Children of the Day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the Breastplate of Faith and Love, and as a Helmet, the Hope of Salvation. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. But we ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with them. But we urge you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays evil for evil, but always strive for what is good, both among yourselves and toward everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophecies, but test everything and hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. May the God of Peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will do it. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the Holy Brethren. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.