

1 & 2 Thessalonians

1 & 2 Timothy

Titus

1, 2 & 3 John

Jude

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

1 & 2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

1, 2 & 3 JOHN

JUDE

1 Thessalonians

1 Paul, **Silas**^a and Timothy,

To the church of the **Thessalonians** in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith

²We always thank God for all of you and **continually mention** you in our **prayers**. ³We remember before our God and Father your work **produced** by faith, your **labor prompted** by love, and your endurance **inspired** by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters^b loved by God, that he has **chosen** you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not **simply** with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and **deep conviction**. You know how we **lived** among you for your sake. ⁶You became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, for you **welcomed** the message in the **midst** of **severe** suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷And so you became a **model** to all the believers in Macedonia and **Achaia**. ⁸The Lord's message **rang** out from you not only in Macedonia and **Achaia**—your faith in God has become known **everywhere**. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹for they themselves **report** what kind of **reception** you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from **idols** to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to **wait** for his Son from **heaven**, whom he **raised** from the dead—Jesus, who **rescues** us from the coming **wrath**.

^{a1} Greek *Silvanus*, a variant of *Silas* ^{b4} The Greek word for brothers and sisters (*adelphoi*) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in 2:1, 9, 14, 17; 3:7; 4:1, 10, 13; 5:1, 4, 12, 14, 25, 27.

Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica

2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our **visit** to you was not without **results**. ²We had **previously** suffered and been **treated outrageously** in **Philippi**, as you know, but with the help of our God we **dared** to tell you his gospel in the face of **strong opposition**. ³For the **appeal** we make does not **spring** from **error** or **impure motives**, nor are we **trying** to **trick** you. ⁴On the contrary, we **speak** as those **approved** by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not **trying** to please people but God, who **tests** our hearts. ⁵You know we **never used flattery**, nor did we put on a **mask** to **cover up greed**—God is our **witness**. ⁶We were not **looking** for **praise** from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as **apostles** of Christ we **could** have **asserted** our authority. ⁷Instead, we were like young children^c among you.

Just as a **nursing mother cares** for her children, ⁸so we **cared** for you. Because we loved you so much, we were **delighted** to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹**Surely** you remember, brothers and sisters, our **toil** and **hardship**; we **worked** night and day in order not to be a **burden** to anyone while we **preached** the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we **dealt** with each of you as a father **deals** with his own children, ¹²**encouraging, comforting** and **urging** you to live lives worthy of God, who **calls** you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God **continually** because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you **accepted** it not as a human word, but as it **actually** is, the word of God, which is **indeed** at work in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brothers and sisters, became **imitators** of God's **churches** in **Judea**, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those **churches**

^c7 Some manuscripts *were gentle*

suffered from the **Jews**¹⁵ who **killed** the Lord Jesus and the **prophets** and also **drove** us out. They **displease** God and are **hostile** to everyone¹⁶ in their **effort** to keep us from **speaking** to the **Gentiles** so that they may be saved. In this way they always **heap** up their sins to the **limit**. The **wrath** of God has come **upon** them at last.^d

Paul's Longing to See the Thessalonians

¹⁷But, brothers and sisters, when we were **orphaned** by being **separated** from you for a **short** time (in person, not in **thought**), out of our **intense longing** we made every **effort** to see you. ¹⁸For we **wanted** to come to you—**certainly** I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan **blocked** our way. ¹⁹For what is our hope, our joy, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰**Indeed**, you are our glory and joy.

3 So when we **could stand** it no **longer**, we **thought** it best to be left by **ourselves** in **Athens**.²We sent Timothy, who is our brother and **co-worker** in God's **service** in **spreading** the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,³ so that no one would be **unsettled** by these **trials**. For you know **quite** well that we are **destined** for them.⁴In fact, when we were with you, we kept **telling** you that we would be **persecuted**. And it turned out that way, as you well know.⁵For this reason, when I **could stand** it no **longer**, I sent to **find** out about your faith. I was **afraid** that in some way the **tempter** had **tempted** you and that our **labors** might have been in **vain**.

Timothy's Encouraging Report

⁶But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good **news** about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have **pleasant memories** of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.⁷Therefore,

^d16 Or them fully