**The Second Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians**

**2 Thessalonians Chapter 1**

OPENING GREETING (1:1-4)  
Salutation

1Paul, and Silvanus,[[1]](#footnote-10017) and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:[[2]](#footnote-30835) 2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Thanks

3We are obligated to always give thanks to God for all of you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your trust is growing abundantly, and the love each one of you all has for one another is increasing. 4Therefore, we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God because of your endurance and trust in *the midst of* all your persecutions and afflictions that you are enduring.

GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (1:5-12)  
Encouragement in Persecution

5*The fact* that you will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God (for which you also are suffering) is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, 6since it is righteous for God to repay with affliction those who are afflicting you 7and *to give* relief to you who are being afflicted, as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his powerful angels 8in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the good news of our Lord Jesus. 9They will pay the penalty of everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord and away from his glorious strength[[3]](#footnote-27659) 10on that Day when he comes to be glorified by his holy ones and to be marveled at by all those who believed (*this includes you* because our testimony to you was believed).

Prayer to be Worthy of His Calling

11And in view of this we always pray for you, that our God will count you worthy of *his* calling and by *his* power fulfill every desire for goodness and *every* work motivated by trust, 12so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Thessalonians Chapter 2**

THE COMING OF CHRIST AND THE DAY OF THE LORD (2:1-12)

1Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ[[4]](#footnote-11220) and our gathering together to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2not to be quickly shaken from your *state of* mind or alarmed, either by a spirit*-inspired utterance* or by a *spoken* message or by a letter allegedly from us, to the effect that the Day of the Lord has come. 3Do not let anyone deceive you by any means, because *that day will not come* unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called “god” or *every* object of worship, so much so that he sits down in the sanctuary of God, displaying himself as God. 5Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6And you know what is holding *him* back now, so that he will be revealed when his time comes. 7For the secret of lawlessness is already at work only until the one who is now restraining *it* is out of the way. 8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy by the spirit[[5]](#footnote-11436) from his mouth and put an end *to him* at the appearance of his coming.

9The coming *of the lawless one* is a result of the activity of the Adversary[[6]](#footnote-17622) with all kinds of power and counterfeit signs and wonders, 10and with every kind of unrighteous deception to *deceive* those who are destroying themselves because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11And because of this God sends them a deluding influence[[7]](#footnote-22916) so that they believe a lie, 12with the result that all who have not believed the truth, but took pleasure in unrighteousness, will be condemned.

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER (2:13-17)

13But we are obligated to give thanks to God always for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits[[8]](#footnote-26026) for salvation *that comes* through holiness produced by the spirit and belief in the truth. 14He called you to this through our good news, so you can obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold on to the traditions that you were taught, whether by *spoken* message or letter from us. 16Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by *his* grace gave us everlasting encouragement and a good hope, 17encourage and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

**2 Thessalonians Chapter 3**

PRAYER REQUEST AND WARNING (3:1-15)  
Pray for us

1Furthermore, brothers and sisters, keep praying for us so that the word of the Lord continues to spread *quickly* and be glorified, just as it also did among you, 2and *pray* so that we are rescued from harmful and wicked people, for not everyone has trust. 3But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen you and guard you from the Wicked One. 4And we have confidence concerning you *who are* in the Lord, that you are both doing and will *continue to* do the things that we command. 5Now may the Lord guide your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ.[[9]](#footnote-10782)

Warning Against the Disorderly

6Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother or sister who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. 7For you yourselves know how you must imitate us, because we were not disorderly among you, 8nor did we eat bread from anyone without paying *for it.* Instead, we labored and struggled, working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you, 9not because we do not have the right *to be supported*, but so that we could give ourselves to you as an example for you to imitate. 10And indeed, when we were with you, we used to give you this command: “If anyone is not willing to work, do not let him eat.” 11For we hear that some among you are walking disorderly, not *busy* working, but are *just* busybodies. 12Now we command and exhort such people in the *name of the* Lord Jesus Christ to be working in a quiet fashion *and* to eat their own bread.

13But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing what is good. 14But if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person *and* do not associate with him, so that he is put to shame. 15And *yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish[[10]](#footnote-10807) him as a brother or sister.

FINAL REMARKS (3:16-18)

16Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times *and* in every way. The Lord be with you all.

17I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, which is the sign *of genuineness* in every letter; this is how I write. 18The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

1. Or “Silas” [↑](#footnote-ref-10017)
2. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-30835)
3. Lit. “the glory of his strength” [↑](#footnote-ref-27659)
4. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-11220)
5. Or “breath” [↑](#footnote-ref-11436)
6. “Adversary” is the translation of the Greek satanas. [↑](#footnote-ref-17622)
7. Lit. “working of error” [↑](#footnote-ref-22916)
8. Some MSS read “from the beginning” [↑](#footnote-ref-26026)
9. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-10782)
10. Or “counsel” [↑](#footnote-ref-10807)