

{52} I Thessalonians

King James 1769 Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 1

(1) Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(2) We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

(3) Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

(4) Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

(5) For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

(6) And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

(7) So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

(8) For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

(9) For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Chapter 1

(1) Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy^a, to the church of the Thessalonians^b *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you, and peace^c, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(2) We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

(3) Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

(4) Knowing, beloved brothers, your election of God.

(5) Because our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance; as you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

(6) And you became our followers, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit:

(7) So that you were examples to all who believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

(8) Because from you the word of the Lord was proclaimed not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith towards God is spread abroad; so that we do not need to say anything.

(9) Because they themselves show how we came to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

1:1a – Timothy – Acts 16:1

1:1b – church of Thessalonians – Acts 17:1f

1:1c – Grace and Peace – grace always precedes peace – Rom. 1:7; I Cor. 1:3; II Cor. 1:2;

Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Philip. 1:2; Col. 1:2; II Thes. 1:2; I Tim. 1:2; II Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4;

Philemon 1:3; I Pet. 1:2; II Pet. 1:2; II Jn. 1:3 – grace means receiving something as a free gift that is totally undeserved

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

(10) And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Chapter 2

(1) For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

(2) But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

(3) For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

(4) But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

(5) For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

(6) Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

(7) But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

(8) So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

(9) For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

King James Paraphrase

(10) And to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, Who delivered us from the wrath to come.

Chapter 2

(1) Because you yourselves know, brothers, our coming to you, was not in vain:

(2) But even after we had suffered before, and were shamefully treated, as you know, at Philippi^a, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God even amid much controversy.

(3) Because our encouragement *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in trickery:

(4) But as we were allowed by God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, Who tries our hearts.

(5) Because never at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak of covetousness {greed}^b; God is witness:

(6) Nor did we seek praise of men, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been a burden to you, as the apostles of Christ.

(7) But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherishes her children:

(8) So affectionately desiring you, we were willing to have imparted to you, not the gospel of God only, but also our very own souls, because you were dear to us.

(9) Because you remember, brothers, our labor and pain: we preached to you the gospel of God laboring night and day, because we did not want to be indebted to any of you.

2:2a - Acts 16:12f

2:5b - covetousness - greed - wanting things that belong to others

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

(10) Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
(11) As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,
(12) That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.
(13) For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
(14) For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:
(15) Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:
(16) Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.
(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?
(20) For ye are our glory and joy.

(10) You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holy and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe:
(11) As you know how we encouraged and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his children,
(12) That you would walk worthy of God, Who has called you to His kingdom and glory.
(13) Also for this reason we thank God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectively works also in you who believe.
(14) Because you, brothers, became followers of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus: because you also have suffered similar things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:
(15) Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God, and are contrary to all men:
(16) Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles {non-Jews} that they might be saved, to fill up their sins always: because the wrath has come upon them completely.
(17) But we, brothers, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.
(18) Therefore we would have come to you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.
(19) Because what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is* it not you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
(20) Because you are our glory and joy.

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 3

(1) Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;
(2) And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:
(3) That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
(4) For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
(5) For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.
(6) But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:
(7) Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:
(8) For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.
(9) For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;
(10) Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Chapter 3

(1) Therefore when we could no longer wait, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;
(2) And sent Timothy, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:
(3) That no man should be moved because of these trials: because you yourselves know that we are appointed for this purpose.
(4) Because truly, when we were with you, we told you before that we would suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and you know.
(5) For this reason, when I could no longer wait, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor was in vain.
(6) But now when Timothy came from you to us, and brought us good news of your faith and charity {love}^a, and that you have fond memories of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:
(7) Therefore, brothers, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:
(8) Because now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.
(9) Because what thanks can we render to God again for you, because all the joy with which we rejoice for your sakes before our God;
(10) Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

3:6a – charity – agape {αγαπην}– godly love – this love is not merely an emotion, but true godly love is love of action; therefore it is often translated as “charity” in the King James
- see I Cor. 13:1

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

(11) Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.
(12) And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:
(13) To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Chapter 4

(1) Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, *so* ye would abound more and more.
(2) For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.
(3) For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:
(4) That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;
(5) Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:
(6) That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
(7) For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
(8) He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

King James Paraphrase

(11) Now may God Himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.
(12) And may the Lord cause you to grow and abound in love towards one another, and towards all *men*, even as we *do* towards you:
(13) To the end He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming^b of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Chapter 4

(1) Furthermore then we urge you, brothers, and encourage *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received from us how you ought to live and to please God, *so* you would grow more and more.
(2) Because you know the commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.
(3) Because this is the will of God, *even* your growing in sanctification {spiritual maturity}^a, that you should abstain from fornication {sexual immorality}^b:
(4) That every one of you should know how to possess his body in purity and honor;
(5) Not in the passions of lust, as the Gentiles {non-Jews} who do not know God:
(6) That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because the Lord *is* the One Who takes vengeance on all such, as we also have warned you and told you ahead of time.^c
(7) Because God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness.
(8) He therefore who despises {these commandments}, does not despise man, but God, Who has also given to us His Holy Spirit.

3:13b – coming – parousia {παρουσία} - coming with the saints - the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ - Armageddon - see note on I Cor. 1:8

4:3a – sanctification – purification – growing in spiritual maturity

4:3b – fornication – having sex with someone you are not married to – see notes on Mat. 5:32; 15:19; Acts 15:20

4:6c – The Lord avenges His children when they are wronged

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

(9) But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

(10) And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

(11) And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

(12) That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

(13) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

(14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

(15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

(16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

(17) Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

(18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

(9) But concerning brotherly love you do not need that I write to you: because you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

(10) And indeed you do it towards all the brothers who are in all Macedonia: but we urge you, brothers, that you increase more and more;

(11) And that you study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

(12) That you may walk honestly towards those who are outside, and *that* you may not lack anything.

(13) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, that you not sorrow, even as others who have no hope.

(14) Because if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so those also who sleep in Jesus God will bring with Him.

(15) Because this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain to the coming of the Lord shall not precede those who are asleep.

(16) Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first^d:

(17) Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up^e together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

(18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

4:16d – the rapture – see Is. 26:20; I Cor. 15:51-52 - see note on I Cor. 1:8

4:17e – caught up – arpadzo {ἀρπάζω} – where we get “Rapture” from

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 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) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
- (4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
- (5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- (6) Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.
- (7) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
- (8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
- (9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
- (10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
- (11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Chapter 5

- (1) But of the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need that I write to you.
- (2) Because you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord^a so comes as a thief in the night.
- (3) Because when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction will come upon them, as birth pains upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
- (4) But you, brothers, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.^b
- (5) You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- (6) Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*; but let us watch and be sober.
- (7) Because those who sleep, sleep in the night; and those who get drunk get drunk in the night.
- (8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
- (9) Because God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
- (10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
- (11) Therefore comfort yourselves together, and encourage one another, even as you also do.

5:2a -- the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ - Armageddon - see note on I Cor. 1:8
5:4b – Note the emphasis on the pronouns – they, they, you, you. The Day of the Lord comes suddenly upon unbelievers and they are caught off guard – but believers will not be caught off guard.

{52} I Thessalonians

King James Version

(12) And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
(13) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.
(14) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.
(15) See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.
(16) Rejoice evermore.
(17) Pray without ceasing.
(18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
(19) Quench not the Spirit.
(20) Despise not prophesyings.
(21) Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
(22) Abstain from all appearance of evil.
(23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(24) Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.
(25) Brethren, pray for us.
(26) Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.
(27) I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.
(28) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

King James Paraphrase

(12) And we urge you, brothers, to know those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
(13) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.
(14) Now we encourage you, brothers, warn those who are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient towards all *men*.
(15) See that no one renders evil for evil to any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.
(16) Rejoice always.
(17) Pray without ceasing.
(18) In everything give thanks: because this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
(19) Do not quench the Spirit.
(20) Do not despise prophesies.
(21) Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
(22) Abstain from all appearances of evil.
(23) And the very God of peace sanctify you {make you clean and holy} completely; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(24) Faithful is He Who calls you, Who will also do *it*.
(25) Brothers, pray for us.
(26) Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.
(27) I charge you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the holy brothers.
(28) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen {Let it be}.