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1 Thessalonians

Version 37

[en]

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Date: 2022-06-27

Version: 37

Published by: unfoldingWord

unfoldingWord® Hebrew Bible

Date: 2022-06-06

Version: 2.1.25

Published by: unfoldingWord

unfoldingWord® Greek New Testament

Date: 2022-06-06

Version: 0.25

Published by: unfoldingWord

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1 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

¹Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you.^[1]

²We always give thanks to God for all of you, continually making mention of you in our prayers, ³remembering your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father; ⁴knowing, brothers loved by God, your election, ⁵because our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance—just as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much hardship, with joy of the Holy Spirit. ⁷As a result, you became an example to all those who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For from you the word of the Lord has been sounded out not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but your faith toward God has gone out into every place. Therefore, we do not have need to say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us what kind of reception we had with you and how you turned to God from the idols to serve the living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from the heavens, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, the one rescuing us from the wrath that is coming.

1:1 ^[1]

Chapter 2

¹For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you has not been in vain. ²But having previously suffered and having been shamefully treated at Philippi, just as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much struggle. ³For our exhortation was not from error, nor from impurity, nor in deceit, ⁴but just as we have been examined by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing to men, but to God, the one who examines our hearts. ⁵For we did not come at that time in words of flattery, just as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God {is} witness— ⁶nor seeking glory from men, either from you ^{or} from others, ⁷being able to be a burden as apostles of Christ; but we became little children in the midst of you, as if a mother might comfort {her} own children.^[1] ⁸Having affection for you in this manner, we were pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also {our} own souls. For you had become beloved to us. ⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil, night and day working in order not to burden any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You {are} witnesses, and {so is} God, how holy and righteous, and blameless we became toward you who believe, ¹¹just as you know as each one of you, as a father his own children, ¹²exhorting you and encouraging and testifying for you to walk worthily of God, who is calling you into {his} own kingdom and glory.

¹³And because of this, we also thank God constantly, that having received the word of God, heard from us, you accepted it not {as} the word of man, but just as it truly is, the word of God, which is also working in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God that are in Judea in Christ Jesus, because the same things you also suffered from {your} own countrymen, just as they also from the Jews, ¹⁵who have killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets and have persecuted us and are not pleasing to God and {are} hostile to all men, ¹⁶forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles so that they might be saved, to always fill up their sins. But the wrath has come upon them to the end.

¹⁷But we, brothers, having been separated from you for the time of an hour, by face, not in heart, became extremely eager to see your faces, in much desire. ¹⁸For we desired to come to you—indeed I, Paul, both once and

twice—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹For what {is} our hope or joy or crown of boasting?^[2] Or {is it} not even you before our Lord Jesus at his coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.

2:7 ^[1]

2:19 ^[2] two ancient versions have a word translated as or

Chapter 3

¹Therefore, enduring it no longer, we thought it good to be left behind at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and a servant of God in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and to comfort you regarding your faith,^[1] ³that no one be disturbed by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that for this we are appointed. ⁴For even when we were with you, we were telling you in advance that we are about to suffer affliction, and it happened, just as you also know. ⁵Because of this, I also no longer enduring it, sent to know about your faith, lest the tempter had somehow tempted you, and our labor might have been in vain. ⁶But just now Timothy has come to us from you and has brought to us the good news of your faith and love and that you always have good memories of us, longing to see us just as we also, you. ⁷Because of this, brothers, we were comforted by you in all our distress and affliction, by your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you yourselves stand firm in the Lord. ⁹For what thanks are we able to give back to God concerning you for all the joy in which we rejoice before our God because of you,^[2] ¹⁰night and day pleading earnestly to see your face and to provide what {is} lacking in your faith?

¹¹But may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²Now may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we also toward you, ¹³to strengthen your hearts, blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen!

3:2 ^[1]

3:9 ^[2] with

Chapter 4

¹So finally, brothers, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, just as you received from us about how it is necessary for you to walk and to please God (just as also you are walking), so that you might abound even more. ²For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: to keep yourselves from sexual immorality; ⁴for each of you to know to possess {his} own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵not in the passion of lust (just as also the Gentiles who do not know God); ⁶that no one transgress and exploit his brother in this matter, for the Lord is an avenger concerning all these things, just as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in sanctification. ⁸Therefore, the one rejecting this rejects not man, but God, who gives^[1] his Holy Spirit to you^[2]

⁹But concerning brotherly love, you have^[3] no need {for us} to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. ¹⁰For indeed, you do this to all the brothers who {are} in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brothers, to abound even more ¹¹and to strive to live quietly and to perform your own things and to work with your own hands, just as we commanded you, ¹²so that you may walk properly before those outside and may have need of nothing.

¹³Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you may not grieve just as also the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so God will also bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left behind until the coming of the Lord, may certainly not go before those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with a trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be

caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and in this way we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

4:8 ^[1] some ancient manuscripts read

4:8 ^[2] some ancient manuscripts read

4:9 ^[3] but the best manuscripts read

Chapter 5

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need {for us} to write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the Lord comes in this manner—like a thief in the night. ³When they may say, “Peace and safety,” then sudden destruction comes on them like birth pains to the one having in the womb, and they will certainly not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in darkness, so that the day might overtake you like a thief. ⁵For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night, nor of the darkness; ⁶so then, we should not sleep as the rest, but we should keep watch and be sober. ⁷For those who are sleeping sleep at night, and those who are getting drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But we, being of the day, should stay sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and of love, and a helmet—the hope of salvation. ⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰the one who died for us so that, whether we might be awake or asleep, we would live together with him. ¹¹Therefore, comfort one another and build up one the one, just as also you are doing.

¹²Now we ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who are laboring among you and leading you in the Lord and admonishing you, ¹³and to regard them highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴Now we exhort you, brothers: Admonish the disorderly, encourage the discouraged, help the weak, be patient toward all. ¹⁵See that no one would pay back evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good, both for one another and for all. ¹⁶Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks, for this {is} the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things.^[1] Hold fast to what {is} good. ²²Stay away from all appearance of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, and soul, and body be kept blamelessly at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful {is} he who calls you, who will also do it.

²⁵Brothers, pray also for us.

²⁶Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. ²⁷I solemnly charge you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.^[2]

²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.^[3]

5:21 ^[1] many ancient manuscripts read

5:27 ^[2]

5:28 ^[3]

Contributors

unfoldingWord® Literal Text Contributors

Nicholas Alsop
Scott Bayer
Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Matt Carlton
George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
Dan Dennison
Jamie Duguid
Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D.Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Michael Francis
Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
Jesse Harris
C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
John Huffman
D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
Jack Messarra
Gene Mullen
Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
Kristy Nickell
Tom Nickell
Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics
James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
Dean Ropp
Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch
Larry Sallee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
Doug Smith, M.T.S., M.Div., Th.M., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Leonard Smith
Suzanna Smith
Tim Span
Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
Maria Tijerina
David Trombold, M. Div.
Aaron Valdizan, M.Div., Th.M. in Old Testament, The Masters Seminary
James Vigen
Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
Grant Ailie, BA Biblical Studies, M.Div.

