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v92

Second Thessalonians

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2 Thessalonians

1 *I,* Paul, *am writing this letter.* Silas and Timothy *are with me. We are sending this letter* to *you,* the group of believers
in the city of Thessalonica, who belong to God our Father
and to *our* Lord Jesus the Messiah. 2 *May* God our Father and
our Lord Jesus the Messiah *continue to be* kind to you and
make you peaceful.

3 Our fellow believers, we should thank God very frequently
for you*, and we certainly do*! It is very appropriate that we
should do this, because you are trusting in the Lord Jesus
more and more, and because every one of you is loving each
of the others more and more. 4 As a result, we keep proudly
talking about you to the other groups of believers belonging
to God. We tell them how you patiently endure *suffering* and
how you continue trusting in the Lord Jesus, even though
other people continually cause you to suffer.

5 *We can clearly see that God has made you able to stay faithful to Jesus while people make you suffer.* From that
we know that God judges justly, because it means that he
considers you to be worthy of being part of his people forever.
That is what you are suffering for. 6 Since God judges justly,
he will certainly also cause suffering for those people who
are making you suffer. 7 He will also cause the people who
are afflicting you to stop doing it. He will also do that for
us. This will happen when our Lord Jesus shows himself
to everyone as he returns from heaven with his powerful
angels. 8 Then with blazing fire he will punish those people
who have rejected God, those who refuse to accept the good
news about our Lord Jesus. 9 These people will experience
the direct result *of rejecting God*. They will be apart from
the Lord *Jesus* forever, where they will never know how
wonderfully powerful he is, and where they will be always
dying. 10 *This will happen* when the Lord Jesus comes back
from heaven at the time that God has decided. As a result,
all we who are his people will praise him and marvel at him.
You will be there, too, because you believed us when we told
you the things about Jesus that we knew to be true.

11 We frequently ask God *to strengthen you spiritually so*
that you might praise Jesus like this. We pray that the God
whom we worship will make you worthy to be the new
people that he has invited you to be. We pray that he will
empower you to accomplish every good thing that you want
to do because God has inspired you to do it. 12 We pray this
because we want you to praise our Lord Jesus, and we want
him to honor you. This will happen because the God whom
we worship and our Lord Jesus the Messiah are exceedingly
kind to you.

2 Now *I want to write to you* about the time when our
Lord Jesus the Messiah will return and will gather us
to himself. My fellow believers, I urge you 2 to think calmly
about any message that may have come to you that says that
the Lord Jesus has already returned to earth. Do not let this
kind of message upset you. It does not matter if the message
comes from a spirit or if it comes from a person or if it is
in a letter that someone claims that I wrote. 3 Do not allow
anyone to persuade you to believe any such message.

It is not true, because other things *that have not yet happened* must happen before *the Lord returns*. Before the
Lord returns, a large number of people will rebel against
God. They will accept and obey a certain man who will
oppose everything that God has said. (After some time, God
will destroy him.) 4 This man will say that he is greater than
everything that people consider to be God and everything
that people worship. He will oppose both. As a result, he
will even sit *in God's place* in God's temple to proclaim that
he himself is God! 5 I am sure that you remember that I told
you all about these things while I was still with you *there in Thessalonica*.

6 You also know what is preventing this man from showing
himself to everybody now. He will not be able to show himself
until the time that God has set for him. 7 Clearly, people
are already opposing what God has said, for reasons that
only believers can understand. But someone is preventing
this man *from revealing himself* now, and he will continue to
prevent this man until God tells him to stop preventing this
man. 8 It is then that God will allow this man who completely
rejects God's instructions to show himself to everyone. (In
the end, Jesus will return. When this man sees Jesus, this
man will become completely powerless. Then the Lord Jesus
will speak a command that will destroy this man.)

9 *But before Jesus destroys this man,* Satan will work very
powerfully through this man. Satan will empower this man
to do all kinds of supernatural deeds that look like the
miracles that God does. 10 This man will be very wicked
and will deceive very many people. These people will perish
because they did not accept the true message about Jesus as
highly valuable, so God will not save them. 11 Because these
people reject the true message about Jesus, God enables
them to think falsely so that they will believe this man's lies.
12 God does that so that he may justly condemn all those
who refused to believe the true message about Jesus, people
who instead preferred to do things that are wicked.

13 But we should always thank God for you, our fellow
believers, you whom our Lord Jesus loves. We should do
this because God chose you to be among the first people to
believe the true message about Jesus. God chose you to be
among the first people that he would save and set apart for
himself by means of his Spirit. 14 God invited you to belong
to him as we proclaimed to you the good news about Jesus
so that God might honor you in some of the same ways that
he honors our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

15 So, our fellow believers, continue to strongly believe
in the Messiah. Continue believing the true teachings that
we have passed on to you when we spoke to you and wrote
a letter to you.

16–17 God our Father loves us. Because he is extremely
kind to us, he will continue to encourage us forever, and we
can expect to receive good things from him. We pray that he
and our Lord Jesus the Messiah himself will encourage you
and make you able to continually do and say every kind of
good thing.

3 This is the last part of what I want to say. Our fellow
believers, pray for us that many more people will soon
hear the message about our Lord Jesus and honor it, just as
you have done. 2 Pray also for us that God will keep the many
evil people from harming us. As you know, most people are
not faithful to the Lord.

3 Nevertheless, the Lord Jesus is faithful to you! He will
make you strong spiritually and he will protect you from

Satan, the evil one. [4] Because you are joined to our Lord
Jesus, we are also confident that you are now obeying what
we have commanded you, and that you will obey what we
are commanding you *in this letter*. [5] We pray that our Lord
Jesus would continue to help you to experience how much
God loves you as well as to experience the endurance that
the Messiah will give you.

[6] Our fellow believers, accept what we say now as if
our Lord Jesus the Messiah himself were saying this: we
command you to stop associating with every fellow believer
who is lazy and refuses to work. These people are not living
in the way that Jesus taught us and that we in turn have
taught you. [7] We tell you this because you yourselves know
that you should behave just as we behaved. We did not
just sit there without working while we were living among
you. [8] That is to say, we did not eat anyone's food if we did
not pay for it. Instead, we worked very hard all the time *to
support ourselves*. We did that so that we would not have to
depend on any of you *for what we needed*. [9] God has certainly
authorized us to receive what we need from his people. But
instead of demanding things from you, we worked hard so
that you could see how God wants his people to live, and then
you could live in just the same way. [10] Remember that when
we were there with you, we kept commanding you that if
any fellow believer refuses to work, you should not give him
food to eat. [11] Now we tell you this again, because people
have told us that some of you are lazy and not working at
all. Not only that, but some of you are interfering with what
other people are doing.

[12] Accept what we say now as if the Lord Jesus the Messiah
himself were saying this: We command and urge those fellow
believers who are not working to mind their own business
and to work so that they have what they need to live.

[13] As for you fellow believers who are working hard, do
not ever get tired of doing what is right!

[14] If any fellow believer does not obey what we have
written in this letter, publicly identify that person. Then
do not associate with him, in order that he may become
ashamed *that he is not working*. [15] Do not think of him as
though he were your enemy; instead, warn him as you would
warn your other fellow believers.

[16] I pray that our Lord, who is the only one who can truly
make anyone peaceful, will make you peaceful in every way
and in all situations.

I pray that our Lord Jesus will continue to help you all.
[17] *Now I have taken the pen from my scribe, and* I, Paul, am
sending this greeting to you as I write this myself. I do this
in all my letters in order that you may know that it is truly I
who have sent this letter. This is how I always end my letters.
[18] I pray that our Lord Jesus the Messiah will continue to act
kindly to you all.