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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.