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2 Thessalonians

1 Greetings from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. To the church (*group of believers*) that lives in Thessalonica. You people are in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Grace (*kindness*) and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We thank God for you always. And we should do that because that is right for us to do. It is right because your faith is growing more and more. And the love that every one of you has for each other is also growing. **4** So we boast about you to the other churches of God. We tell the other churches the way you continue to be strong and have faith. You are being persecuted and are suffering many troubles, but you continue with strength and faith.

Paul Tells About God's Judgment

5 That is proof that God is right in his judgment. God wants you to be worthy of his kingdom. Your suffering is for that kingdom. **6** God will do what is right. He will give trouble to those people who trouble you. **7** And God will give peace to you people who are troubled. And he will give peace to us. God will give us this help when the Lord Jesus is shown to us. Jesus will come from heaven with his powerful angels. **8** He will come from heaven with burning fire to punish those people who don't know God. He will punish those people who refuse to accept the Good News* about our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** Those people will be punished with a destruction that continues forever. They will not be allowed to be with the Lord. Those people will be kept away from his great power. **10** This will happen

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

on the day when the Lord [Jesus] comes. Jesus will come to receive glory with his holy people.* And all the people who have believed will be amazed at Jesus. You will be in that group of believers, because you believed the things we told you.

11 That is why we always pray for you. We ask our God to help you live the good way that he called you to live. The goodness you have makes you want to do good. And the faith you have makes you work. We pray that with his power God will help you do these things more and more. **12** We pray all this so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ can have glory in you. And you can have glory in him. That glory comes from the grace (*kindness*) of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Evil Things Will Happen

2 Brothers and sisters, we have something to say about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to talk to you about that time when we will meet together with him. **2** Don't become easily upset in your thinking or afraid if you hear that the day of the Lord has already come. Some person may say this in a prophecy* or in some message. Or you may read it in a letter that some person tells you came from us. **3** Don't let any person fool you in any way. [That day of the Lord will not come] until the turning away [from God] happens. And [that day will not come] until the Man of Evil appears (*comes*). That Man of Evil

holy people Literally, "saints" or "holy ones." God's people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ and belong only to God.

prophecy Here, false teaching by a person who claims to speak for God.

belongs to hell.* ⁴That Man of Evil is against anything called God or anything that people worship. And that Man of Evil puts himself above anything called God or anything that people worship. And that Man of Evil even goes into God's temple* and sits there. Then he says that he is God.

⁵I told you before that all these things would happen. Remember? ⁶And you know what is stopping that Man of Evil now. He is being stopped now so that he will appear (*come*) at the right time. ⁷The secret power of evil is already working in the world now. But there is one who is stopping that secret power of evil. And he will continue to stop it until he is removed (*taken out of the way*). ⁸Then that Man of Evil will appear (*come*). And the Lord Jesus will kill that Man of Evil with the breath that comes from his mouth. The Lord Jesus will destroy that Man of Evil with the glory of his coming. ⁹The Man of Evil will come by the power of Satan (*the devil*). He will have great power, and he will do many different false miracles, signs, and wonders.* ¹⁰The Man of Evil will use every kind of evil to trick those people who are lost. Those people are lost because they refused to love the truth. (If they loved the truth, they would be saved.) ¹¹But those people refused to love the truth, so God sends them something powerful that leads them away from the truth. God sends them that power so that they will believe something that is not true. ¹²So all those people who don't believe the truth will be condemned (*judged guilty*). They did not believe the truth, and they enjoyed doing evil things.

You Are Chosen for Salvation

¹³Brothers and sisters, the Lord loves you. God chose you from the beginning to be saved. So we should always thank God for you. You are saved by the Spirit* making you

belongs to hell Literally, "[He is] the son of destruction."

temple Probably the special building in Jerusalem where God commanded the Jews to worship.

false miracles, signs, and wonders Here, this means amazing acts done by the devil's power.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

holy* and by your faith (*believing*) in the truth. ¹⁴God called you to have that salvation. He called you by using the Good News* that we told you. God called you so that you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So, brothers and sisters, stand strong and continue to believe the teachings we gave you. We taught you those things in our speaking and in our letter to you.

^{16–17}We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father will comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say. God loved us. Through his grace (*kindness*) he gave us a good hope and comfort that continues forever.

Pray for Us

3 And now, brothers and sisters, pray for us. Pray that the Lord's teaching will continue to spread quickly. And pray that people will give honor to that teaching, the same as happened with you. ²And pray that we will be protected from bad and evil people. (Not all people believe in the Lord.)

³But the Lord is faithful. He will give you strength and protect you from the Evil One (*the devil*). ⁴The Lord makes us feel sure that you are doing the things we told you. And we know that you will continue to do those things. ⁵We pray that the Lord will lead your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience.

The Obligation to Work

⁶Brothers and sisters, by the authority (*power*) of our Lord Jesus Christ we command you to stay away from any believer who refuses to work. People who refuse to work are not following the teaching that we gave them. ⁷You yourselves know that you should live like we live. We were not lazy when we were with you. ⁸And when we ate another person's food, we always paid for it. We worked and worked so that we would not be trouble to any of you. We worked night and day. ⁹We had the right to ask you to help us.

holy God's people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ and belong only to God.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

But [we worked to take care of ourselves] so that we would be an example for you to follow. ¹⁰When we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a person will not work, then he will not eat.”

¹¹We hear that some people in your group refuse to work. They do nothing. And they make themselves busy in other people’s lives. ¹²We command those people to stop bothering other people. We command them to work and earn their own food. In the Lord Jesus Christ we beg them to do this. ¹³Brothers and sisters, never become tired of doing good.

¹⁴If any person does not obey what we tell you in this letter, then remember who that

person is. Don’t associate with them. Then maybe they will feel ashamed. ¹⁵But don’t treat them like an enemy—counsel them like a brother.

Final Words

¹⁶We pray that the Lord of peace will give you peace. We pray that he will give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

¹⁷I am Paul, and I end this letter now with my own writing. All my letters have this to show they are from me. This is the way I write.

¹⁸The grace (*kindness*) of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.