

The Lord's Coming

¹³Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about those who have died. We don't want you to be sad like other people—those who have no hope. ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died, but we also believe that he rose again. So we believe that God will raise to life through Jesus any who have died and bring them together with him when he comes.

¹⁵What we tell you now is the Lord's own message. Those of us who are still living when the Lord comes again will join him, but not before those who have already died. ¹⁶The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel,* and with the trumpet call of God. And the people who have died and were in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive at that time will be gathered up with those who have died. We will be taken up in the clouds and meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words.

Be Ready for the Lord's Coming

5 ¹Now, brothers and sisters, we don't need to write to you about times and dates. ²You know very well that the day when the Lord comes again will be a surprise, like a thief who comes at night. ³People will say, "We have peace and we are safe." At that time destruction will come to them quickly, like the pains of a woman giving birth. And those people will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not living in darkness.* And so that day will not surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all people who belong to the light.* You belong to the day.* We don't belong to the night* or to darkness. ⁶So we should not be like other people. We should not be sleeping. We should be awake and have self-control. ⁷People who sleep, sleep at night. People who drink too much, drink at night. ⁸But we belong to the day, so we should control ourselves. We should wear faith and love to protect us. And the hope of salvation should be our helmet.

⁹God did not choose us to suffer his anger. God chose us to have salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰Jesus died for us so that we can live together with him. It is not important if we are alive or dead when Jesus comes. ¹¹So encourage each other and help each other grow stronger in faith, just as you are already doing.

Final Instructions and Greetings

¹²Now brothers and sisters, we ask you to recognize the value of those who work hard among you—those who, as followers of the Lord, care for you and tell you how to live. ¹³Show them the highest respect and love because of the work they do.

Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴We ask you, brothers and sisters, to warn those who will not work. Encourage those who are afraid. Help those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. ¹⁵Be sure that no one pays back wrong for wrong. But always try to do what is good for each other and for all people.

¹⁶Always be full of joy. ¹⁷Never stop praying. ¹⁸Whatever happens, always be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Don't stop the work of the Holy Spirit.* ²⁰Don't treat prophecy* like something that is not important. ²¹But test everything. Keep what is good, ²²and stay away from everything that is evil.

²³We pray that God himself, the God of peace, will make you pure—belonging only to him. We pray that your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—will be kept safe and be blameless when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. ²⁴The one who chose you will do that for you. You can trust him.

²⁵Brothers and sisters, please pray for us. ²⁶Give all the brothers and sisters the special greeting of God's people.^a ²⁷I tell you by the authority of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters. ²⁸The grace* of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

^a5:26 *the special greeting of God's people* Literally, "a holy kiss."

2 Thessalonians

1 ¹Greetings from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. To the church* of those in Thessalonica, who are in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

³We thank God for you always. And that's

what we should do, because you give us good reason to be thankful: Your faith is growing more and more. And the love that every one of you has for each other is also growing. ⁴So we tell the other churches of God how proud we are of you. We tell them how you patiently continue to be strong and have faith, even

though you are being persecuted* and are suffering many troubles.

Paul Tells About God's Judgment

⁵This is proof that God is right in his judgment. He wants you to be worthy of his kingdom.* Your suffering is for that kingdom. ⁶God will do what is right. He will punish those who are causing you trouble. ⁷And he will bring relief to you who are troubled. He will bring it to you and to us when the Lord Jesus comes from heaven for all to see, together with his powerful angels. ⁸He will come with burning fire to punish those who don't know God—those who refuse to accept the Good News* about our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹They will be punished with a destruction that never ends. They will not be allowed to be with the Lord but will be kept away from his great power. ¹⁰This will happen on the day when the Lord Jesus comes to receive honor with his holy people.* He will be admired among all who have believed. And this includes you because you believed what we told you.

¹¹That is why we always pray for you. We ask our God to help you live the good way he wanted when he chose you. 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. ¹²Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of you, and you will be honored because of him. This can happen only by the grace* of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Evil Things Will Happen

2 ¹Brothers 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. ²Don't let yourselves be easily upset or worried if you hear that the day of the Lord has already come. Someone might say that this idea came from us—in something the Spirit* told us, or in something we said, or in a letter we wrote. ³Don't be fooled by anything they might say. 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, the one who belongs to hell.^a ⁴He will stand against and put himself above everything that people worship or think is worthy of worship. He will even go into God's Temple^b and sit there, claiming 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 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 taken out of the way. ⁸Then that Man of Evil will appear. But the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath that comes from his mouth. The Lord will come in a way that everyone will see, and that will be the end of the Man of Evil.

⁹When that Man of Evil comes, it will be the work of Satan.* He will come with great power, and he will do all kinds of false miracles, signs, and wonders. ¹⁰The Man of Evil will use every kind of evil to fool those who are lost. They are lost because they refused to love the truth and be saved. ¹¹So God will send them something powerful that leads them away from the truth and causes them to believe a lie. ¹²They will all be condemned because they did not believe the truth and because they enjoyed doing evil.

You Are Chosen for Salvation

¹³Brothers and sisters, you are people the Lord loves. And we always thank God for you. That's what we should do, because God chose you to be some of the first people^c to be saved. You are saved by the Spirit* making you holy* and by your faith in the truth. ¹⁴God chose you to have that salvation. He chose you by using the Good News* that we told you. You were chosen 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 when we were there and by letter.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷We 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 and gave us through his grace* a wonderful hope and comfort that has no end.

Pray for Us

3 ¹And 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 crooked and evil people. Not everyone believes in the Lord, you know.

³But the Lord is faithful. He will give you strength and protect you from the Evil One.* ⁴The Lord gives us confidence that you are doing what we told you and that you will continue to do it. ⁵We pray that the Lord will cause you to feel God's love and remember Christ's patient endurance.

^a2:3 belongs to hell Literally, "is the son of destruction."

^b2:4 Temple Probably the Temple in Jerusalem. See "Temple" in the Word List.

^c2:13 to be ... people Some Greek copies say, "from the beginning."

The Obligation to Work

⁶Brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ we tell 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 do. We were not lazy when we were with you. ⁸We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked and worked so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We worked night and day. ⁹We had the right to ask you to help us. 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: “Whoever will not work should not be allowed to eat.”

¹¹We hear that some people in your group refuse to work. They are doing nothing except being busy in the lives of others. ¹²Our instruction to them is to stop bothering others,

to start working and earn their own food. It is by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are urging them to do this. ¹³Brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.

¹⁴If there are some there who refuse to do what we tell you in this letter, remember who they are. Don't associate with them. Then maybe they will feel ashamed. ¹⁵But don't treat them as enemies. Counsel them as fellow believers.*

Final Words

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

¹⁷Here's my greeting in my own handwriting—PAUL. I do this in all my letters to show they are from me. This is the way I write.

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

1 Timothy

1 Greetings from Paul, an apostle* of Christ Jesus. I am an apostle by the command of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope.

²To Timothy, a true son to me in the faith we share.

Grace,* mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Warnings Against False Teachings

³When I went to Macedonia,* I asked you to stay in Ephesus. Some people there are teaching things that are not true, and I want you to tell them to stop. ⁴Tell them not to give their time to meaningless stories and to long lists of names to prove their family histories. Such things only cause arguments. They don't help God's work, which is done only by faith. ⁵My purpose in telling you to do this is to promote love—the kind of love shown by those whose thoughts are pure, who do what they know is right, and whose faith in God is real. ⁶But some have missed this key point in their teaching and have gone off in another direction. Now they talk about things that help no one. ⁷They want to be teachers of the law,^a but they don't know what they are talking about. They don't even understand the things they say they are sure of.

^a**1:7 law** Probably the Jewish law that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. See Ex. 19 and 20. Also in verse 8.

⁸We know that the law is good if someone uses it right. ⁹We also know that the law is not made for those who do what is right. It is made for those who are against the law and refuse to follow it. The law is for sinners who are against God and all that is pleasing to him. It is for those who have no interest in spiritual things and for those who kill their fathers or mothers or anyone else. ¹⁰It is for those who commit sexual sins, homosexuals, those who sell slaves, those who tell lies, those who don't tell the truth under oath, and those who are against the true teaching of God. ¹¹That teaching is part of the Good News* that our blessed God gave me to tell. In it we see his glory.*

Thanks for God's Mercy

¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord because he trusted me and gave me this work of serving him. He gives me strength. ¹³In the past I insulted Christ. As a proud and violent man, I persecuted his people. But God gave me mercy because I did not know what I was doing. I did that before I became a believer. ¹⁴But our Lord gave me a full measure of his grace.* And with that grace came the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Here is a true statement that should be accepted without question: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and I am the worst of them. ¹⁶But I was given mercy so that in me Christ Jesus could show that he

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