

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE

THESSALONIANS.

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WRITER. The Apostle Paul (1. 1).

Date. Second Thessalonians was evidently written very soon after Paul's first letter to that church. The occasion may well have been the return of the bearer of the former Epistle, and his report.

Theme. The theme of Second Thessalonians is, unfortunately, obscured by a mistranslation in the A.V. of 2. 2, where "day of Christ is at hand" (1 Cor. 1. 8, note) should be, "day of the LORD is now present" (Isa. 2. 12, refs.). The Thessalonian converts were "shaken in mind" and "troubled," supposing, perhaps on the authority of a forged letter as from Paul, that the persecutions from which they were suffering were those of the "great and terrible day of the LORD," from which they had been taught to expect deliverance by "the day of Christ, and our gathering together unto him" (2. 1).

The present letter, then, was written to instruct the Thessalonians concerning the day of Christ, "and our gathering together unto him" (1 Thes. 4. 14-17) and the relation of the "day of Christ" to the "day of the LORD." First Thessalonians had more in view the "day of Christ"; the present Epistle the "day of the LORD."

The Epistle is in five divisions: I. Salutation, 1. 1-4. II. Comfort, 1. 5-12. III. Instruction concerning the day of the LORD and the man of sin, 2. 1-12. IV. Exhortations and apostolic commands, 2. 13-3. 15. V. Benediction and authentication, 3. 16-18.

CHAPTER 1.

Part I. Salutation.

PAUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy, ^aunto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the ^bcharity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves ^cglory in you in the ^dchurches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye ^eendure:

Part II. Comfort in persecution.

5 ^fWhich is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also ^gsuffer:

6 ^hSeeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus ⁱshall be revealed from heaven with ^jhis mighty ^kangels,

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- a 1 Thes. 1.1.
- b love.
- c 2 Cor. 9.2.
- d Churches (local). vs. 1,4; 1 Tim. 3.5, 15, 16; (Acts 2.41; Phil. 1.1.)
- e Jas. 5.11.
- f Phil. 1.28.
- g 1 Thes. 2.14; Heb. 10.32, 33.
- h Rev. 6.10.
- i Christ (Second Advent). vs. 7-10; 2 Thes. 2.8. (Deut. 30.3; Acts 1.9, 11.)
- j the angels of his might.
- k Heb. 1.4, note.
- l Day of destruction). vs. 7-10; Rev. 19.19, 20. (Job 21.30; Rev. 20.11-15.)
- m Gospel. 2 Thes. 2.14. (Gen. 12. 1-3; Rev. 14.6.)
- n Phil. 3.19; 2 Pet. 3.7.
- o Isa. 2.19.
- p Mt. 25.31.
- q Bible prayers (N.T.). 2 Thes. 2.16, 17. (Mt. 6.9; Rev. 22.20.)
- r Col. 1.12; Rev. 3.4.
- s 1 Pet. 1.7.
- t Grace (impaired). 2 Tim. 2.1. (Rom. 6.1; 2 Pet. 3.18.)

8 In flaming fire taking ^lvengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the ^mgospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting ⁿdestruction from the presence of the Lord, and from ^othe glory of his power;

10 When he shall come ^pto be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we ^qpray always for you, that our God would ^rcount you worthy of ^tthis calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of ^{his}goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 ^sThat the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the ^lgrace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 2.

Part III. The day of the LORD and the man of sin.

NOW we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by

spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the ^aday of Christ is ^bat hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: ¹for *that day shall not come*, except there come ^ca falling away first, and that ^dman of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what ^ewithholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the ^fmystery of ^giniquity doth already work; only he who now ^hletteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall ^jthat ^kWicked be revealed, ^lwhom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy ^mwith the brightness of his coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of ⁿSatan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not ^othe love of the truth, that they might be ^psaved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be ^qdammned who ^rbelieved not the truth, but had pleasure in ^sunrighteousness.

Part IV. Exhortation and instruction (to 3. 15).

13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning ^lchosen you to ^msalvation through sanctification of the ⁿSpirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our ^ogospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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a Day of the LORD. See Isa. 2. 12, refs.
b now present.
c the apostasy.
d Or, lawless one.
e Or, that which restrains.
f Mt. 13. 11, note.
g lawlessness.
h hindereth.
i hinder.

J The Beast. vs. 3-8; Rev. 13. 1-8. (Dan. 7. 8; Rev. 19. 20.)

k Lawless one.
l Day (of Jehovah). vs. 1-8; 2 Pet. 3. 10. (Isa. 2. 10-22; Rev. 19. 11-21.)

m Christ (Second Advent). 1 Tim. 6. 14, 15. 1 Tim. (Deut. 30. 3; Acts 1. 9-11.)

n Satan. 1 Tim. 1. 20. (Gen. 3. 1; Rev. 20. 10.)

o 1 Cor. 16. 22.
p Rom. 1. 16, note.
q judged.

r Faith. vs. 11, 12; 2 Tim. 1. 12. (Gen. 3. 20; Heb. 11. 39.)

s Apostasy. 1 Tim. 4. 1-3. (Lk. 18. 8; 2 Tim. 3. 1-8.)

t Election (corporeal). 2 Tim. 2. 10. (Deut. 7. 6; 1 Pet. 1. 2.)

u Rom. 1. 16, note.

v Holy Spirit. 1 Tim. 3. 16. (Mt. 1. 18; Acts 2. 4.)

w Gospel. 1 Tim. 1. 11. (Gen. 12. 1-3; Rev. 14. 6.)

x Rom. 6. 17; Jude 3.
y Bible prayers (N. T.). 2 Thes. 3. 5. (Mt. 6. 9; Rev. 22. 20.)

z Grace (in salu.). 1 Tim. 1. 14, 15. (Rom. 3. 24; John 1. 17.)

a Bible prayers (N. T.). Heb. 13. 20, 21. (Mt. 6. 9; Rev. 22. 20.)

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the ^atraditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 ^bNow our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given ^cus everlasting consolation and good hope ^dthrough grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.

CHAPTER 3.

FINALLY, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the ^aLord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

1 The order of events is: (1) The working of the mystery of lawlessness under divine restraint which had already begun in the apostle's time (v. 7); (2) the apostasy of the professing church (v. 3; Lk. 18. 8; 2 Tim. 3. 1-8); (3) the removal of that which restrains the mystery of lawlessness (vs. 6, 7). The restrainer is a person—"he," and since a "mystery" always implies a supernatural element (Mt. 13. 11, note), this Person can be no other than the Holy Spirit in the church, to be "taken out of the way" (v. 7; 1 Thes. 4. 14-17); (4) the manifestation of the lawless one (vs. 8-10; Dan. 7. 8; 9. 27; Mt. 24. 15; Rev. 13. 2-10); (5) the coming of Christ in glory and the destruction of the lawless one (v. 8; Rev. 19. 11-21); (6) the day of Jehovah (vs. 9-12; Isa. 2. 12, refs.).

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are ^abusybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they ^bwork, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, ^cbe not weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and ^dhave no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

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^a 1 Tim.5.13;
 1 Pet.4.15.
^b Eph.4.28.
^c 1 Cor.15.58.
^d Separation.
 vs.6,14;
 1 Tim.6.3-11.
 (Gen.12.1;
 2 Cor.6.
 14-17.)
^e Lev.19.17.
^f John 14.27.
^g 1 Cor.16.21.
^h Rom.16.24.

15 Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* ^eas a brother.

Part V. Benediction and subscription.

16 Now the ^fLord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all.

17 The ^gsalutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

18 The ^hgrace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.