

# 1 Thessalonians

## Prayer Modelled

**1 Thessalonians 1:1** Paul, Silas and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians  
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
**Grace and peace** to you.

<sup>2</sup> We always **thank** God for all of you,  
[always] **mentioning** (*mneia* - remembrance) you in our prayers.

<sup>3</sup> We continually **remember** (*mnemoneuo* - mindful)  
before our God and Father

## The Signs of the Model Church

### A Community Characterized by Faith, Love and Hope

- your **work** (*ergon*) produced by **faith** (*pistis*),
- your **labour** (*kopos* - toil) prompted by **love** (*agape*),
- and your **endurance** (*hupomone* - patience) inspired by **hope**  
in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### A Community Empowered by the Holy Spirit

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God,  
that he has **chosen** (*ekloge*) you,  
<sup>5</sup> because our **gospel** came to you  
NOT simply with **word** (*logos*),  
BUT also with **power** (*dunamis*),  
with the Holy Spirit  
and with **deep conviction** (*plepophoria* - assurance).

### A Community that Imitates Christ

You know how we lived among you for your sake.  
<sup>6</sup> You became **imitators** (*mimetes*) of US and of THE LORD;

### A Community that Bears the Cost of Following Christ

in spite of severe **suffering** (*thlipis* - affliction),  
you welcomed the **message** (*logos*)  
with the **joy** (*chara* - delight) given by the Holy Spirit.

### A Community that Bears the Image of Christ

<sup>7</sup> And so you became a **model** (*typos* – stamp impression)  
to all the **believers** in Macedonia and Achaia.

### A Community that Bears Witness to the Gospel

<sup>8</sup> [For – *gar*] The Lord's **message** (*logos*) **rang out** (*execheo* – sound forth, trumpeted)  
from YOU not only in Macedonia and Achaia  
your **faith** (*pistis*) in God has become known everywhere.  
Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

<sup>9</sup> **for** they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us.

### A Community Clearly Different from the World

They tell how you **turned** (*epistrepho* - converted) to God from idols  
to **serve** (*douleuo* – slave for) the living and true God,

### A Community Committed to waiting for Jesus Christ

<sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven,  
whom he raised from the dead;  
Jesus, who **rescues** (*rhuomai* – draw to oneself) us from the coming wrath.

## The Roles of a Model Missionary

2:1 **For** (*gar*) **You know**, brothers,  
that our visit to you was NOT a **failure** (*kene* – without results).

<sup>2</sup> We had previously suffered and been insulted  
in **Philippi** (Acts 16:12-40), as **you know**,  
but with the help of our God  
we **dared** (*speak freely, boldly*) **to tell** (*laleo*) you his **gospel** in spite of strong opposition.

### (A Steward)

<sup>3</sup> **For** (*gar*) the appeal we make does NOT

- spring from **error** (*wandering*)
- or **impure motives**,
- nor are we **trying to trick** you.

<sup>4</sup> On the contrary,

- we **speak** (*laleo*) as men approved by God
- to be **entrusted** (*pisteuo*) with the **gospel**.
- We are NOT trying to please men but God,  
who tests our hearts.
- <sup>5</sup> **For** (*gar*) **You know** we never used **flattery** [**words** (*logos*)],  
nor did we put on a mask to cover up **greed**  
God is our witness.
- <sup>6</sup> We were not looking for **praise from men**,  
not from you  
or anyone else.

### (A Mother)

As apostles of Christ we COULD have been a burden to you,

<sup>7</sup> but we were gentle among you,  
like a **mother** (*trophos* - nurse) caring for her little children.

<sup>8</sup> We **loved** (*omeiroma* – fond affection) you so much  
that we were delighted to **share with** (*metadido* – impart, give a share of) you  
not only the **gospel** of God  
but our **lives** (*psuche*) as well,  
because you had become so **dear to us** (*agapetos*).

### (A Father)

<sup>9</sup> **Surely** (*gar*) **you remember**, brothers, our **labour** (*kopos* - toil) and hardship;  
we worked night and day

in order not to be a burden to anyone  
while we preached the **gospel** of God to you.

<sup>10</sup> **You are witnesses**,

and so is God,

of how holy,

righteous

and **blameless** (*amemptos* – without blame)

we were among you who **believed**.

<sup>11</sup> **For you know** that we dealt with each of you

as a **father** deals with his own children,

<sup>12</sup> **encouraging** (*paramutheomai*),

comforting

and urging

you to **live lives** (*peripateo* - walk) worthy of God,  
who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

### (An Ambassador)

<sup>13</sup> And we also **thank** God continually because,

when you received the **word** of God,

which you heard from us,

you accepted it NOT as the **word** of men,

but as it actually is, the word of God,

which is at work in you who **believe**.

<sup>14</sup> **For** you, brothers,

became **imitators** (*mimetes*) of God's churches in Judea,  
which are in Christ Jesus:

You suffered from your own countrymen (Gentile Thessalonians)  
the same things those churches suffered from the Jews,  
<sup>15</sup> who killed the Lord Jesus  
and the prophets  
and also drove us out.

They displease God and are hostile to all men  
<sup>16</sup> in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles  
so that they may be saved.

In this way they always **heap up their sins to the limit** (c.f. Gen. 15:16).  
The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

## The Model of Christian Care

### Apostolic Concern

<sup>17</sup> But, brothers, when we were **torn away** (*aporphanizo* – to orphan) from you for a short time  
(in person, not in thought),  
out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

<sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you  
certainly I, Paul, did, again and again  
but Satan stopped us.

<sup>19</sup> **For** what is our **hope**, our **joy** (*chara* - delight), or the crown  
in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes?  
Is it not you?

<sup>20</sup> **Indeed** (*gar*), you are our glory and **joy** (*chara* - delight).

### Apostolic Action

**3:1** So when we could stand it no longer,  
we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens.

<sup>2</sup> We sent Timothy,  
who is our brother and God's fellow-worker in spreading the **gospel** of Christ,  
to strengthen and encourage you in your **faith**,  
<sup>3</sup> so that no-one would be unsettled by these **trials** (*thlipis* - affliction).

[**For** - *gar*] You know quite well that we were destined for them.

<sup>4</sup> **In fact** (*gar*), when we were with you,  
we kept telling you that we would be persecuted.  
And it turned out that way, as you well know.

<sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could stand it no longer,  
I sent to find out about your **faith**.

I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you  
and our **efforts** (*kopos* - toil) might have been useless.

### Apostolic Relief and Joy

<sup>6</sup> But Timothy has just now come to us from you  
and has brought good news about your **faith** and **love**.  
He has told us that you

always have pleasant memories of us  
and that you long to see us,  
just as we also long to see you.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers,  
in all our distress and **persecution** (*thlipis* - affliction)  
we were encouraged about you because of your **faith**.

<sup>8</sup> For now we **REALLY LIVE**,  
since you are standing firm in the Lord.

### Apostolic Response: Thanksgiving and Prayer

<sup>9</sup> How can we **thank** God enough **for** you  
in return for all the **joy** (*chara* - delight) we have  
in the presence of our God because of you?

<sup>10</sup> Night and day we **pray** most earnestly  
that we may see you again  
and supply what is lacking in your **faith**.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself  
and our Lord Jesus  
clear the way for us to come to you.

<sup>12</sup> May the Lord

make your **LOVE** increase  
and **overflow**  
for each other  
and for everyone else,  
just as ours does for you.

<sup>13</sup> May he **strengthen** (*sterizo* – make fast) your **hearts**  
so that you will **be blameless** (*amemptos* – without blame)  
and **holy** in the presence of our God and Father  
when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

## A Call to be a Holy Loving Family

### The Call to Holiness

**4:1** Finally, brothers,  
we instructed you how to **live** (*peripateo* - walk)  
in order to please God,  
as in fact you are **living** (*peripateo* - walk).

Now we ask you and urge you  
in the Lord Jesus  
to do this more and more.

<sup>2</sup> **For** you know what instructions we gave you  
by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>3</sup> [**For** - *gar*] It is God's will that you should be **sanctified** (*hagaismos* - holy):  
that you should avoid **sexual immorality** (*porneia*);  
<sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control his own body  
in a way that is **holy** (*hagaismos* - holy) and honourable,  
<sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the heathen,  
who do not know God;  
<sup>6</sup> and that in this matter  
no-one should wrong his brother  
or take **advantage** (*pleonekteo* – cheat, defraud) of him.

The Lord will punish men for all such sins,  
as we have already told you and warned you.  
<sup>7</sup> **For** God did not call us to be impure,  
but to live a **holy** (*hagaismos* - holy) life.  
<sup>8</sup> Therefore, he who rejects this instruction  
does not reject man but God,  
who gives you his Holy Spirit.

### The Call to Family Generosity

<sup>9</sup> Now about **brotherly love** (*philadelphias*)  
we do not need to write to you,  
**for** you yourselves have been **taught by God** (*theodidaktoi*) to **love** (*agape*) each other.  
<sup>10</sup> And **in fact** (*gar*), you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia.  
Yet we urge you,  
brothers, to do so more and more.

<sup>11</sup> Make it your **ambition** (*philotimeomai* – seek honour, aspire to)  
• to lead a quiet life,  
• to mind your own business  
• and to work with your hands,  
just as we told you,

<sup>12</sup> so that  
• your daily **life** (*peripateo* - walk) may **win the respect of outsiders**  
(Lit. walk properly towards those without)  
• and ~~so that~~ you will **not be dependent on anybody** (Lit. no one have need).

## A Call to Hope and Alertness

### The Lord's Return – what of those who are dead?

<sup>13</sup> Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant  
about those who fall asleep,  
~~or to~~ [so that you] **grieve** (*lupeo* - distress) like the rest of men,  
who have no **hope** (c.f. 1:3; 2:19; 5:8).

<sup>14</sup> [**For** - *gar*] We **believe** that Jesus died and rose again  
and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus  
those who have fallen asleep in him.

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own **word**,

[For - gar] we tell you that

we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord,  
will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the 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 dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.

And so we will be with the Lord for ever.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these **words**.

### The Lord's Return – when will it happen?

**5:1** Now, brothers, about times and dates

we do not need to write to you,

<sup>2</sup> **for** you know very well that the day of the Lord  
will come like a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "**Peace and safety**" (Lat. *pax et securitas* – Roman propaganda),  
destruction will come on them suddenly,  
as labour pains on a pregnant woman,  
and they will **NOT** escape.

### The Lord's Return – how should we prepare?

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers, are not in darkness  
so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

<sup>5</sup> [For - gar] You are all sons of the light and sons of the day.

We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

<sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep,  
but let us be alert and self-controlled.

<sup>7</sup> **For** those who sleep, sleep at night,  
and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

<sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day,  
let us be self-controlled,  
putting on **faith** and **love** (*agape*) as a breastplate,  
and the **hope** (c.f. 1:3; 2:19; 4:13). of salvation as a helmet.

### The Lord's Return – what can we expect?

<sup>9</sup> For God did **NOT** appoint us to suffer wrath  
but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>10</sup> He died for us so that,  
whether we are awake or asleep,  
we may live together with him.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another  
and build each other up,  
just as in fact you are doing.

### The Model Gospel Community or How to be a Responsible Church Family Church family responsibilities towards Leaders

<sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers,  
to **respect** (*eidenai* - acknowledge) those who **work hard** (*kopiao* – to labour c.f. 1:3) among you,  
who **are over** (*proistemi* – lead, care for you in the Lord  
and who **admonish** (*noutheteo* – in an ethical context) you.

<sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in **love** (*agape*) because of their **work** (*ergon*).  
Live in peace with each other.

### Church family responsibilities towards Each Other

<sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers,  
**Warn** (*noutheteo* – in an ethical context) those who are idle,  
encourage the timid,  
help the weak,  
be patient with everyone.

<sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong,  
but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

### Church family responsibilities towards God

- <sup>16</sup> Be joyful always;
- <sup>17</sup> pray continually;
- <sup>18</sup> give **thanks** in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will **for** you in Christ Jesus.

### Church family responsibilities towards the Spirit's Work

- <sup>19</sup> Do not **put out** (*sbennumi* – quench, to put lights out) the Spirit's fire;
- <sup>20</sup> do not treat prophecies with contempt.
- <sup>21</sup> Test everything.  
Hold on to the good.
- <sup>22</sup> Avoid every kind of evil.

### Closing Prayer – Model Prayer

- <sup>23</sup> May God himself, the **God of peace**, (*c.f.* 1:1)  
**sanctify** (*hagaismos* – holy *c.f.* 4:3) you  
**through and through** (*holoteleis* – completely, perfectly).  
May your **whole** (*holokleron* – complete, perfect) spirit, soul and body  
be kept **blameless** (*amemptos* – without blame)  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is **faithful** and he will do it.
- <sup>25</sup> Brothers, pray for us.
- <sup>26</sup> Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.
- <sup>27</sup> I charge you before the Lord to have this letter **read to ALL** the brothers.
- <sup>28</sup> The **grace** (*c.f.* 1:1) of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.