

To the Thessalonians B

Asp's Suggested Paraphrase (ASP)

Chapter 1

⁽¹⁾ From: Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

To: the Church of the Thessalonians, in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

⁽³⁾ We feel compelled by God to always give thanks for you guys, our dear family of faith.

This seems appropriate because your faith is growing exponentially, and the love you guys have for one another is intensifying. ⁽⁴⁾ So we take pride in you guys, if we do say so ourselves, whenever we're talking with other churches about your perseverance and faith in the midst of all the ongoing pressures you guys are enduring. ⁽⁵⁾ It's proof of God's honest assessment that you guys are worthy of the Kingdom of God. And the Kingdom of God is also the reason why you guys are suffering. ⁽⁶⁾ God is just, for sure, and he will ensure payback for all those who pressed in on you guys with pressures of their own. ⁽⁷⁾ He will also relieve your pressures — and ours — when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven with his mighty angels. ⁽⁸⁾ He'll come in flaming fire, reckoning with those who don't know God and those who haven't listened to the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁽⁹⁾ These people will pay the penalty for their crimes: eternal destruction, cut off from the face of the Lord and his glorious power. ⁽¹⁰⁾ When he comes on that day, he will be honored among his holy people. All believers will be amazed, including all of you who believed us when we told you guys about him.

⁽¹¹⁾ We're praying this into existence for you guys all the time, praying that you guys would be made worthy of our God's call — and that you might fully realize all the goodwill, and righteousness, and the work of faith, in his power. ⁽¹²⁾ That way, the name of the Lord Jesus might be celebrated in you guys — and you guys in him — thanks to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2

⁽¹⁾ But we're begging you guys, our dear family of faith, when it comes to being reunited with our Lord Jesus Christ — ⁽²⁾ don't be so quick to be agitated or alarmed at the suggestion that the Day of the Lord has arrived, whether such a suggestion comes through a spirit, or through something somebody says, or through a letter like we would send you. ⁽³⁾ Don't let yourselves be deceived by any sort of trickery. That day won't come until after there's been a rebellion and the Great Anarchist — the Son of Destruction — has stepped forward. ⁽⁴⁾ This antagonist will exalt himself over all gods and all objects of worship in order to prompt his own coronation in the temple, crowning himself as God.

⁽⁵⁾ Don't you guys remember when I was still with you all, and I said these things to you guys? ⁽⁶⁾ And now you guys know what's been keeping him in check until the divinely-appointed moment of his revelation. ⁽⁷⁾ For the mystery of this Anarchy is already at work, only temporarily restrained until he gets out of its way. ⁽⁸⁾ And at that moment, the Great Anarchist will be revealed — only to be ultimately snuffed out by the Lord and rendered useless on sight.

⁽⁹⁾ Satan will be very active at this moment of encounter with all kinds of demonstrations and declarations of supreme power. Fake versions, anyway. ⁽¹⁰⁾ And in all this deception and disregard for righteousness, people will die because they opposed the love of truth and refused to welcome their salvation. ⁽¹¹⁾ As a result, God commissions an energetic perversion — a total counterfeit — to be a collecting point for their belief, ⁽¹²⁾ in order to establish grounds for judgment against all those who refused to believe the truth but opted for disregarding righteousness instead.

⁽¹³⁾ But we can't help but give thanks to God for you guys all the time, our dear family of faith. You are loved by the Lord. We're so thankful that God chose you guys to be the start of his harvest of salvation, through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and your belief in the truth.

⁽¹⁴⁾ He called you guys into this harvest process through the Good News we shared so that the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ is now ours.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Now then, our dear family of faith, you guys must stand your ground and hold tightly to the things that have been passed along to teach you all — whether by our spoken word or written word. ⁽¹⁶⁾ And may our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father — who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and a hope for good things by his grace — ⁽¹⁷⁾ encourage your hearts and establish you all in every good deed and good word.

Chapter 3

⁽¹⁾ One more thing, our dear family of faith: you guys need to be praying for us, so that the word of the Lord might spread rapidly and be glorified among others, just like it was with you guys. ⁽²⁾ Also, pray that we might be delivered from the cruel and unusual ways of people. For not everyone is faith-filled. ⁽³⁾ The Lord, however, *is* faithful. He's the one who will strengthen you guys and provide protection from the evil one. ⁽⁴⁾ And we have become convinced in the Lord regarding you guys: that you're doing the things we instructed you to do, and that you're going to keep on doing those things. ⁽⁵⁾ May the Lord guide your hearts into the love of God and the perseverance of Christ.

⁽⁶⁾ That being said, we've got to tell you guys something, our dear family of faith. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Steer clear of any person from our family of faith who is going about life in a disorderly way instead of the way that was handed down from us. ⁽⁷⁾ For you guys know how you're supposed to be following our example. We weren't lazy when we were with you guys. ⁽⁸⁾ We didn't fill our bellies with anybody's bread without paying for it. Instead, we troubled and toiled night and day, working to not be a burden to any of you guys. ⁽⁹⁾ It's not that we didn't have the authority (to ask you guys to feed us) — but that we could give you guys an example to follow.

⁽¹⁰⁾ For even when we were with you guys, we were telling you guys this same thing: If anyone doesn't want to get to work, he doesn't get to eat. ⁽¹¹⁾ Still we hear that some people are going about life among you guys in a disorderly way — not busy in the sense of business but busy in the sense of being busybodies. ⁽¹²⁾ We're telling these sorts of people — appealing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ — that they should settle down, settle into a groove with their work, and then settle themselves at the table when it comes time to eat the bread they've earned. ⁽¹³⁾ As for you guys, our dear family of faith, don't grow weary in doing good.

⁽¹⁴⁾ But if anyone doesn't listen to what we're saying in this letter — take special note of that person and don't get mixed up with him, so that he might be ashamed. ⁽¹⁵⁾ Don't make it like he's a rival from a different team, but coach him like a teammate, a part of the family of faith.

⁽¹⁶⁾ And may the Lord of peace give you guys peace through every circumstance and in every way. The Lord is with all of you guys.

⁽¹⁷⁾ The closing of this letter is being written by my own hand, Paul's, which is a signature move in all my letters. I'm signing it right now.

⁽¹⁸⁾ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you all.