Open English Translation of the Bible

Paulos's first letter to the believers in

Thessalonikai

Introduction

Thessalonikai was the capital city of the Romaios province of Makedonia (and is now the large, modern city of Thessaloniki in Greece). Paulos taught God's message there in Thessalonikai after he left Filippou (Acts 17:1-4). Before long, there was disagreement from Yehudim upset about Paulos's preaching to non-Jews (Acts 17:5-9). So Paulos was forced to leave Thessalonikai and he went on to Beroia (Acts 17:10-13). Then after a while he went on to Athainai (Acts 17:14-15). Finally, he continued on to Korinthos (Acts 18:1-17). On his arrival there, he heard Timotheos's account of his other work. He had been told by Timotheos about the what the group of believers there in Thessalonikai had been facing. Paulos wrote this *First letter of Paulos to the believers in Thessalonikai* in order to encourage and strengthen the believers there. He gave thanks for the account about their faith and their love. He also reminded them about the lifestyle that he demonstrated to them while he was still there with them. He answered questions again from the believers concerning the return of the messiah, and if the deceased believers would come back to life before the messiah returns. Paulos used this letter to tell them it's necessary that they continue to work in their day-to-day jobs while they wait for the return of the messiah.

Main components of Paulos's letter

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Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This letter is from Paulos, Silas, and Timotheos.

It's written to the assembly of believers in **God** the father and **the master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah** there in Thessalonikai.[1]

May God give his grace and peace to all of you.

Paulos praises the believers

2 We here are always thanking **God** for all of you and remembering you in our prayers—always 3 remembering before our **God** and father about your striving for the faith and the labour of love and the endurance of the hope in our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah**. 4 Brothers and sisters, we know that you're all loved by **God**—the one who chose you. 5 The good message that we brought wasn't just any old message, but also comes in **the** holy **spirit** with power and with full assurance of its truth. You know how we lived among you because of our concern for you all, 6 and then you all imitated both us and the **master** after receiving the message in tribulation with a lot **of** excitement about **the** holy **spirit**[2]— 7 so much so that you all became examples to all the believers in Makedonia and Akaia. 8 So now the message of the **master** has been heard not only in Makedonia and Akaia, but in every place where your faith towards **God** has been seen—so that now we don't even need to say anything. 9 They've been reporting back to us about kindly we were accepted by you all and how you all turned from idols to God, to serve **the** living and true God 10 and waiting for his son, Yeshua to return from the heavens. **Yeshua** is the one that he brought back to life and who rescues us from God's severe anger which is coming.

Paulos recalls his visit to Thessalonikai

2:1 Brothers and sisters, you yourselves know that our going to Thessalonikai wasn't wasted, 2 but after previously suffering and being mistreated in Filippou (Philippi),[3] we spoke boldly at your place with God's help, to tell you all the good message from God despite a lot of opposition there.[4] 3 As we recommend a change in your lifestyles, we don't do it with deception or impurity or deceit, 4 but since God has approved us and entrusted the good message to us, that's what we talk about. We don't aim to bring pleasure to people, but rather to bring them **to God**—the one who approves our inner motives. 5 As you all know, we never once came with a message of flattery, nor did we come under any pretenses (**God is** our witness) trying to get anything from you, 6 nor did we try to earn respect from people—neither from you all nor from anyone else 7 even though we could request support as ambassadors **of Messiah**. But we became unsophisticated among you, just like children, or like a breast-feeding mother who cherishes her own children. 8 So in longing for you all like that, we were happy to share with you all—not only the good message from **God**, but also exposing our own lives because you all became dear to us. 9 Brothers and sisters, you're remembering our work and the hardship that we endured, working day and night so that we wouldn't burden any of you as we proclaimed good message from **God**.

10 You're all witnesses, and **God** also, as to how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we were to the believers, 11 just as each one of you who's a father to his own children has known 12 how to encourage and to console them. We testified to you so that you all would live lives worthy **of God**—the one who invited you into his kingdom and to share his honour.

13 We also never stop thanking **God** that when you accepted **God's** message that you heard from us, it wasn't a message from humans, but truly was a message from **God** who is working in all of you who believed. 14 Brothers and sisters, you became imitators of the other

1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:1.

2 **RV 1:6 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:5-9.

3 **RV 2:2 · Cross-ref.** Acts 16:19-24.

4 **RV 2:2 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:1-9.

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assemblies **of God** in Yehudah (Judea) which are founded on **Messiah Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus). You all suffered the same things from your own countrymen that the strict Yehudim (Jews) did to them.[5] 15 They executed their own prophets as well as the **master Yeshua**. They drove us out,[6] displeasing **God** and contrary to all people— 16 forbidding us from telling non-Jews that they need to be saved so that they stay in their sins, but God's severe anger will finish them off.

Paulos's desire to visit Thessalonikai again

17 But we, brothers and sisters, have been cut off from you for a while, but only physically and not in our hearts, in fact we long to see you even more. 18 We wanted to come and see you all—I, Paulos, even tried twice to come—but Satan held us back. 19 Because who is it that encourages and pleases us and that we can brag about? Won't it be you all there in front of our **master Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) when he returns, 20 because you all make us both happy and proud.

3:1 When we could endure it no longer, we were happy to be left alone in Athainai.[7] 2 We sent Timotheos, who's our brother and **God's** servant in the **messiah's** good message, so that he could strengthen you all and encourage you in your faith 3 so that no one will be upset by these difficulties because you all know that God has appointed us for those. 4 Also, when we were with you all previously, we told you that we were going to be oppressed, and then it happened as you know. 5 So again when I could no longer endure it, I sent Timotheos to find out about your faith, just in case you'd been tempted by the tempter and then our work there would have been wasted.

6 But now Timotheos's returned here to us,[8] telling us the good news about your faith and love, and how you're always mentioning good things about us and wanting to see us, just like we'd like to see all of you. 7 So even in our distress and sufferings, we're comforted by your faith, brothers and sisters 8 because now we can live happily since you're all standing firm in **Yahweh**. 9 We're not able to repay God for the thankfulness that we have about you, because we are certainly thrilled in **God's** presence because of you all.

10 Day and night we're strongly requesting God that we'll be able to go and see you all again, and to teach anything that's lacking in your faith, 11 and that **God** our father himself and our **master Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) might show us how we could get to you all.

12 May the **master** increase your numbers and give you all an excess of love towards each other and toward everyone, just like we also have toward all of you, 13 in order to strengthen your faith and make you blameless and spotless before our father **God**, when our **master Yeshua** comes with all his holy people. May it be so.

Living to please God

4:1 So finally, brothers and sisters, you learnt from us about how to live in a way that pleases **God** as indeed you are. Now we are requesting you all, and we're instructing you from **the master Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) to do this even more, 2 because you all know the instructions that we gave to you through the **master Yeshua**. 3 Because this is **God's** will: that you all stay holy, keeping away from all sexual immorality, 4 knowing that each of your bodies is like a container that you can fill with holiness and honour. 5 Don't fill them with lustful passions like those who don't know **God**, 6 nor going beyond lusts and exploiting your fellow believers, because **Yahweh** is **the** one who avenges all those things as we've told you before and testified to you all. 7 **God** has not called us to impurity but to holiness, 8 so anyone who rejects this is not rejecting a human but rejecting **God**—the one who

5 **RV 2:14 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:5.

6 **RV 2:15 · Cross-ref.** Acts 9:23,29; 13:45,50; 14:2,5,19; 17:5,13; 18:12.

7 **RV 3:1 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:15.

8 **RV 3:6 · Cross-ref.** Acts 18:5.

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gives his holy **spirit** to you all.
9 Then concerning brotherly love, you don't
need me to write about that because you your-
selves have been taught by God to be loving
each other 10 and because you're all already do-
ing it to the believers all over Makedonia. But
we advise you, brothers and sisters to do it
even more 11 and to make it your ambition to
live quietly and to look after your own selves.
Work with your own hands as we instructed
you, 12 so that you have a good attitude towards
non-believers and so that you don't have any
outstanding needs.

The master's return

13 But we don't want
you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, about
those who've died so that you won't mourn like
others who don't have any hope, 14 because if
we believe that **Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) died
and came back to life, then we can also believe
that when he returns, **Yeshua** will be bringing
with him those who have died. 15 So this is
what we're saying in Yahweh's message: those
who are still living when the **master** returns,
we certainly won't precede those who've al-
ready died[9] 16 because there'll be an announce-
ment from the archangel and **God's** trumpet
will sound and then the **master** will come
down from heaven with a loud shout. The dead
believers in **Messiah** will come to life again
first,[10] 17 then we who are still alive will be
pulled up into the clouds together with them to
meet the **master** in the air, and from then will
always remain with **Yahweh**. 18 So when some-
one dies, comfort each other with those truths.

5:1 Concerning the times and seasons, broth-
ers and sisters, you don't need anything to be
written 2 because you already know that **Yah-
weh's** day will come like a thief comes at
night.[11] 3 Just when they're saying there's
peace and security, then they'll suddenly recog-
nise the imminent destruction, like a pregnant
woman having birth pains. They certainly
won't be able to escape, 4 but you, brothers and
sisters, aren't in darkness and likely to get sur-
prised by a thief in the night 5 because you're
all children of the light and of the day. No,
we're not part of the night or of the darkness
6 so as a result, we won't be sleeping like the
others, but we'll be alert and sober. 7 Those
who sleep do it at night, and those who get
drunk do it at night, 8 but we belong to the day.
We'll be dressed in the armour of faith and
love, and the helmet which is the hope of our
salvation.[12] 9 **God** hasn't assigned us to his se-
vere anger, but rather for obtaining salvation
through our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk.
Yesus) Messiah**— 10 the one who was executed
on our behalf so that whether we might be
alert and watching, or whether we're dead and
'sleeping', either way we'll all live together
with him. 11 So comfort and encourage each
other as you've all been doing already.

Final teaching and greetings

12 But we're asking you,
brothers and sisters, to
be aware of the people who are working among
you all and the ones leading you in **Yahweh** and
instructing you all, 13 and show them love
over-and-beyond because of their work. Be at
peace with each other.
14 We advise you, brothers and sisters, to
scold those who are lazy, comfort those who
are discouraged, help the weak up, and be pa-
tient towards everyone. 15 Don't let anyone re-
pay evil for evil, but always be doing what is
good towards each other and towards everyone
else.
16 Always find something to be happy about.
17 Never stop praying, 18 thanking God **about**
everything.
This is what **God** wants for you in **Messiah
Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus): 19 Don't smother
the holy **spirit**. 20 Don't scorn prophesies.
21 Evaluate everything, holding on to what's
good 22 but keeping away from everything that

9 RV 4:15-17 · Cross-ref. 1Cor 15:51-52.
10 RV 4:16 · Cross-ref. 1Cor 15:51-52.
11 RV 5:2 · Cross-ref. Mat 24:43; Luk 12:39; 2Pe 3:10.
12 RV 5:8 · Cross-ref. Isa 59:17; Eph 6:13-17.

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seems to be evil.
23 May the **God** of peace himself make you
completely holy and may your entire spirits,
souls, and bodies be kept irreproachable at the
returning of our **master Yeshua Messiah**.
24 The one calling you all is faithful and he will
also see it through.
25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us also.
26 Greet the brothers with a holy kiss for me.
27 I request you by the **master** to read my let-
ter to all the believers there.
28 May you all experience the grace that
comes from our **master Yeshua Messiah**. May
it be so.

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