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# 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**


Introduction *1:1*
Thanking and praising *1:2–2:16*
Timotheos's good report *2:17–3:13*
Living in a way that pleases God *4:1-12*
Teaching concerning the messiah's return *4:13–5:11*
The final warning *5:12-22*
Conclusion *5:23-28*


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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 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

**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.
**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.

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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 sis-
ters 8 because now we can live happily since you're all stand-
ing firm in **Yahweh**. 9 We're not able to repay God for the
thankfulness that we have about you, because we are cer-
tainly 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 him-
self 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 in-
structions 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 testi-
fied to you all. 7 **God** has not called us to impurity but to ho-
liness, 8 so anyone who rejects this is not rejecting a human
but rejecting **God**—the one who gives his holy **spirit** to you
all.

9 Then concerning brotherly love, you don't need me to
write about that because you yourselves have been taught by
God to be loving each other 10 and because you're all already
doing 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 igno-
rant, brothers and sisters, about those who've died so that
you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope, 14 be-
cause if we believe that **Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) died and
came back to life, then we can also believe that when he re-
turns, **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 cer-
tainly won't precede those who've already died[9] 16 because
there'll be an announcement 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 **Mes-
siah** 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 re-
main with **Yahweh**. 18 So when someone dies, comfort each
other with those truths.

5:1 Concerning the times and seasons, brothers and sisters,
you don't need anything to be written 2 because you already
know that **Yahweh's** day will come like a thief comes at
night.[11] 3 Just when they're saying there's peace and secu-
rity, then they'll suddenly recognise the imminent destruc-
tion, like a pregnant woman having birth pains. They cer-
tainly won't be able to escape, 4 but you, brothers and sis-
ters, aren't in darkness and likely to get surprised 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 as-
signed us to his severe anger, but rather for obtaining salva-
tion through our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Mes-
siah**— 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

8 **RV 3:6 · Cross-ref.** Acts 18:5.

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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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 patient towards everyone. **15** Don't let anyone repay 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 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 letter 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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