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Open English Translation of the Bible

Paulos's second letter to the believers in

Thessalonikai

Introduction

This letter, was written by Paulos and sent to the group of believers there in Thessalonikai (Acts 17:1-10). Paulos had been forced to leave Thessalonikai because there were Yehudim there who got upset about his preaching to non-Jews. So he went on to Korinthos and from there he wrote both of his letters to the believers in Thessalonikai. At that time, the believers in Thessalonikai were confused because there was teaching that troubled them, because they were told that the master Yeshua, the messiah, had already returned. Because they were confused, Paulos blocked that teaching by explaining to them that wars and destruction would come before the messiah returns. The one who brings that destruction is the enemy of the messiah, a miracle-working teacher named the 'lawless man'. Paulos taught the readers of this letter that it's necessary to stay alert about everyone teaching them, despite difficulties and sufferings. They need to continue to work for their living and to do good just as Paulos himself had done.

Main components of Paulos's letter

Introduction *1:1-2*
Paulos thanks and prays for the Thessalonikai *1:3-12*
Teaching concerning the return of the messiah *2:1-17*
Encouragement about prayer and not being lazy *3:1-15*
Conclusion *3:16-18*

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** our father and **the master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah** there in Thessalonikai.[1]
2 May **God** our father and **the master Yeshua Messiah** give grace and peace to all of you.

Paulos's thanking and praying

3 We should be always thanking **God** for you brothers and sisters, and it's right that we do, because your faith is growing and you all display plenty of love towards each other. **4** That's why we boast **about** you all in **God's** assemblies, because of your endurance and faith despite the persecutions you encounter and the tribulations that you put up with.

The Judgement after Yeshua's return

5 This shows God's righteous judgement in that you're considered worthy to enter God's kingdom because of what you've had to suffer. **6** **God** is righteous, and he's the one who will repay those who oppress you and make life difficult for you all, **7** then all of you who've been oppressed will be able to relax when the **master Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) comes back from heaven with his powerful army. **8** With a fiery flame he'll judge those who don't know **God** and those who haven't accepted the good message of our **master Yeshua Messiah**. **9** They'll be sentenced to eternal destruction—banished from **Yahweh's** presence and from the display of his strength[2] **10** when he's honoured by his righteous followers and admired by those who believe in him just as you believed our testimony to all of you.
11 We're also praying all the time for you all that you'll be considered worthy of our **god's** calling and will live out your good intentions and demonstrate your faith with power, **12** so that the reputation of our **master Yeshua** will be honoured in you all, and you in him, thanks to the grace of our **God** and **of the master Yeshua Messiah**.

The false man-God

2:1 Now concerning the return of our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah** and our being gathered together with him,[3] we are asking you all, brothers and sisters, **2** to not be alarmed or have your thinking jolted back-and-forth by any 'spirit' or message or letter that seems to come from us that tries to say that the **master** has already returned. **3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, because before that happens many people will turn away from the good message, and the lawless man will be revealed—the conveyor of destruction **4** who opposes every god or object of worship and puts himself above them all—seating himself in God's temple and (supposedly) demonstrating that he is **God**.[4]
5 Don't you remember how I told you people this when I was still with you? **6** Now you know what's restraining him so that he'll be revealed at the proper time, **7** because the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, except that it's being restrained until he's taken out of the middle, **8** and then the lawless man will be revealed. The **master Yeshua** will kill him with his breath[5] and neutralise him with the appearance of his coming. **9** The lawless man was coming and working under Satan with his power and signs and false miracles[6] **10** and with every unrighteous seduction. These deceive those who are perishing, because they never had the love for the truth that could have saved them. **11** That's why **God** is sending deceptive practices to them, so that they can continue to believe in the falsehood, **12** so that all of those who didn't believe in the truth, but took pleasure in wicked actions, will be judged and sentenced.

Keep hold of the truth

13 But brothers and sisters, we here should always be thanking **God** for you who were loved by **Yahweh**. From the beginning God chose you for salvation in the holiness **of the spirit** and faith in the truth **14** which he called you to. That was through the good message that we brought so that you might obtain the power that comes from our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah**. **15** So as a result, brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep hold of the practices that we taught you—whether it was spoken or written in our letters.
16 May our **master Messiah Yeshua** and **God** our father who loved us and gives us eternal comfort, and by his grace gives good hope, **17** comfort your minds and strengthen you all in everything you do and every good message you share.

Pray for us as well

3:1 The other thing, brothers and sisters, is to keep praying for us, so that the **master's** message will keep spreading and being honoured, just like it was among you, **2** and so that we might escape from the schemes of perverse and evil people, because not everyone believes this message. **3** But the **master** is faithful and will strengthen you all and will keep you from the evil one. **4** We are confident that with **Yahweh's** help, you are following all of our instructions and will continue to do so.
5 May the **master** direct your thoughts towards **God's** love and **Messiah's** endurance.

The warning against laziness

6 Brothers and sisters, we're instructing you to avoid those who are only lazily living out their faith, and not following the practices that they were taught by us. **7** You yourselves know that it's

1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:1.
2 **RV 1:9 · Cross-ref.** Isa 2:10.
3 **RV 2:1 · Cross-ref.** 1Th 4:15-17.
4 **RV 2:4 · Cross-ref.** Dan 11:36; Eze 28:2.
5 **RV 2:8 · Cross-ref.** Isa 11:4.
6 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Mat 24:24.

Readers' Version

appropriate to be imitating us, because we didn't loaf when we were among you all, **8** nor did we eat food from anyone that we didn't deserve, but we worked even when it was hard—day and night, so that we wouldn't be a burden on anybody, **9** not that we didn't have the right, but in order to make ourselves a good example that you could emulate.
10 Even when we were there with you, brothers and sisters, we instructed you that anyone who's not willing to work doesn't deserve to eat.

11 Yes, we've heard that there are some who associate with you, brothers and sisters, who are lazy—not doing any work, but just meddling, **12** so we're instructing those people, and urging them by the authority of **the master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah**, to just quietly get down to work, and then they'll have food to eat. **13** But the rest of you, brothers and sisters, don't get discouraged from doing good.

14 And if there's anyone there who won't submit to the contents of this letter, then take note of that person and don't associate with them, in order that they might be persuaded. **15** Don't consider them as an enemy, but reprimand them like you would reprimand a brother or sister.

16 May the **master** of peace himself give all of you peace through everyone and in every way. May the **master be** with all of you.

Farewell

17 This farewell is in my own handwriting—I'm Paulos, and I do this with every letter I write.

18 May the grace from our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) Messiah** be with all of you.

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