But about the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need for
writing to you; for yourselves know well enough that the day of the Lord
comes like a thief at night. When they say, “Peace and security,” then, sudden-
dly, destruction seizes them, as the agony of a woman with child; and
they cannot escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that that day should seize you
like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are neither
of night nor of darkness. Consequently, we do not sleep as the rest; but
we keep guard and are sober.

For the sleepers sleep at night, and the drunkards are drunk at night.
But we, being of day, are sober, clothed in a breastplate of faith and
love, and a helmet—a hope of salvation. For God appointed us not for
passion; but, on the contrary, for the acquisition of salvation through our
Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for our sakes, so that, whether watching or
sleeping, we may live together with Him. Therefore comfort yourselves
mutually, and build yourselves up into oneness—as also you do.

The Divine Life.

And we request you, brothers, to recognise those labouring among you,
and leading you in the Lord, and in-
structing you; and esteem them with special love, because of their work.

Be at peace among yourselves; but we beg of you, brethren, correct the
disorderly; encourage the timid; help
the weak; forbear with all.

Guard against any returning wrong for wrong to any one; on the contrary,
always follow good, both to one
another, and to all.

Rejoice at all times;
Pray unceasingly;
Give thanks for everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
Quench not the Spirit;
Nor despise preaching;
But, examining everything,
Secure the noble,
And refrain from every appearance of wickedness.
And the God of peace Himself purify you perfectly, and keep your
spirit, and the soul, and the body, spotless for the appearance of our
Lord Jesus Christ. He Who called you is faithful, and He will effect it.

Pray for us, friends. Give regards to all the brethren with a holy kiss.
I charge you by the Lord to make this letter known to all our friends.
The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Addressed to the Thessalonians by Paul, in the name of himself, Silas, and
Timothy, from Corinth, in the earlier part of the year 53 A.D.)

Notes.—This letter was evidently of later date than 53 A.D., and, from internal evidence (see
iii., v. 1), was written from Athens during a visit not recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.
The old chronology put to the Epistles is often wrong, and was the estimate of comparatively
modern transcribers.—F. F.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE
TO THE
THESALONIANS.

Greeting.

PAUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy, to the assembly of Thessalonians,
in our God, Father, and Lord
Jesus Christ: Blessing and peace to you from God our Father, and
Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle’s Thanksgiving.

We ought rightly to give thanks to God always for you, friends, as it is
fitting; because your faith abounds beyond measure, and love fills all
of you mutually: so that we our

selves boast in the assemblies of God

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regarding your obedience and fidelity in all the persecutions and afflictions that you are enduring—as a proof of the right decision of God in having considered you worthy of His Divine Kingdom, for the sake of which you suffer.

Righteous Retribution.

6 Hence it is right with God to repay your afflictors with affliction; and to you, the afflicted—rest with us, at the manifestation of the Lord Jesus from heaven, with messengers of His power: in fiery flame giving judgment to those not perceiving God, and to those not attending to the glad tidings of our Lord Jesus, whose sentence shall be eternal banishment from the presence of the Lord and from His mighty rectification, when He comes to be exalted by His saints, and admired by all believers, and He will confirm our testimony to you in that day.

11 To this end we always pray for you, so that our God may consider you worthy of the calling, and may powerfully equip with every noble accomplishment and faithful work; so that the Name of our Lord Jesus may be exalted in you, and you in Him, by the gift of our God, and Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lawless One.

2 But we implore you, brethren, regarding the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of our gathering together to Him, not to be easily shaken nor terrified from your purpose, neither by spirit, by word, nor by any letter presented as from us, as though the day of the Lord were near.

3 Let no one cheat you by any such means. For the apostasy must come first, and the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, must first be revealed; the one who withstands, and is self-exalted over and above all that is called Divine, or worshipped; so that he seats himself in the sanctuary of God, proclaiming that he himself is God. Do you not remember that whilst we were with you we told you this? And you also know the present restraint to his development until his proper time. For the mystery of that lawlessness already operates; only the Restriemer intervenes for a time: until he is removed; and then the outlaw will become manifest, whom the Lord will destroy by the spirit of His mouth, and extinguish by the manifestation of His presence. This out-law's arrival will be accompanied by the energy of Satan with all powers, and signs, and terrors of falsehood; and with all the deceit of injustice among the perishing, who accepted not the love of the truth, so that they themselves might be saved. And, because of this, God will send to them an energy of error, for themselves to make the Falsehood credible; so that in every way those who do not trust to the truth, but on the contrary, approve falsehood, may be condemned.

Words of Cheer.

But we find it our duty to give thanks to God always for you, dear brethren, loved by the Lord; because God brought you a firstfruits into salvation, by purity of spirit and confidence in the truth, into which He called you, through our good message, to acquire rectification from our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand and secure the charge which you have been taught, either by our speech or letter. And our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, Who loved us and gave us an eternal consolation and pure hope as a gift, encourage and console your hearts, and establish you in every beneficial work and word.

Concluding Exhortation.

In conclusion, brethren, pray for us, so that the teaching of the Lord may run and be honoured, as it did towards you; and that we may be rescued from bad and wicked men; for the faith is not with all. But the Lord is faithful, Who will strengthen you, and guard you from the wicked. And we are confident in the Lord concerning you, that what we have commanded, you both do and will do; and may the Lord guide your hearts into the love of God, and into the patience of Christ.

But we advise you, brethren, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, avoid every brother conducting himself idly, and not according to the direction which he received from us. For yourselves know how to imitate us rightly: because we were not idle among you, nor did we eat unpurchased bread supplied by any one; but, on the contrary, we worked night and day with labour.
and toil, so as not to be a burden to any of you. Not because we had no authority; but so that we might give ourselves a pattern to you, to imitate us. And besides, when we were with you we commanded this, that if any one would not work, he should not be fed. For we hear of some going disorderly among you, never working, but trifling. But we order and direct such in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they should themselves quietly earn the bread they eat. And you, my brethren, do not abstain from doing good; but if any one does not obey our order by this letter, mark him, and do not associate with him—so that he may turn again. Do not, however, regard him as an enemy; but rather correct him as a brother.

The Address.

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace in every form. The Lord be with you all. The signature by my own hand, Paul, which is my sign in every letter, I write thus. The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

(Written to the Thessalonians from Athens; and, as the contents show, is a sequel to the former Letter.)

THE FIRST EPISODE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO TIMOTHY.

The Greeting.

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the appointment of God our Saviour, and of Christ Jesus our Hope, to Timothy, my true child in faith: Blessing, mercy, peace, from God, Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

General Instructions.

2 I requested you to remain in Ephesus when I went into Macedonia, so that you should give order to some not to teach false doctrine, nor to investigate interminable genealogical legends; which questions impede rather than expedite the administration of God in the faith, while the object of its teaching is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and unpretended faith—some missing which have wandered into silly discussion, wishing to be teachers of law; but not understanding either what they say, or of what they are asserting. But we know how excellent the law is, if any one makes use of it lawfully: knowing this, that law is not opposed to the righteous, but to the wicked, and disorderly, and sinners; to the unholy and depraved; to murderers, fornicators, sodomites, man-stealers, liars, and to perjurers; and if there is anything contrary to healthy teaching, it fights against it, according to the rectifying gospel of the blessed God, as I have myself believed it.

3 I have been endowed with an office from Christ Jesus our Lord, Who empowered me, because He thought me faithful, appointing me to a ministry: although I was before an abuser, a persecutor, and brutal; however, I found pity, because I had done it unknowingly in the absence of faith. But the bounty of our Lord, with the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus, was excessive. The Word is true, and worthy of full reception, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost. But for this reason I was granted pity; so that Christ Jesus might conspicuously display in me the universality of mercy, to serve as an intimation to posterity, to trust in Him for eternal life. But to the King of the eternities—imperishable, invisible, Alone God—be honour and majesty, through the ages of the ages. Amen.

4 I deposit with you this command, son Timothy, subsequent to the former instructions to you, so that in them you might wage the noble war, having faith and a perfect understanding—which some having sailed