

5 But about the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need for
 2 writing to you; for yourselves know well enough that the day of the Lord
 3 comes like a thief at night. When they say, "Peace and security," then, suddenly, destruction seizes them, as the agony of a woman with child; and they cannot escape.
 4 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
 5 of night nor of darkness. Consequently, we do not sleep as the rest; but we keep guard and are sober.
 7 For the sleepers sleep at night, and the drunkards are drunk at night.
 8 But we, being of day, are sober, clothed in a breastplate of faith and love, and a helmet—a hope of salvation.
 9 For God appointed us not for passion; but, on the contrary, for the acquisition of salvation through our
 10 Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for our sakes, so that, whether watching or sleeping, we may live together with
 11 Him. Therefore comfort yourselves mutually, and build yourselves up into oneness—as also you do.

The Divine Life.

12 And we request you, brothers, to recognise those labouring among you, and leading you in the Lord, and instructing 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; 16

Pray unceasingly; 17

Give thanks for everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 18

Quench not the Spirit; 19

Nor despise preaching; 20

But, examining everything, 21

Secure the noble,

And refrain from every appearance of wickedness. 22

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. 23

Pray for us, friends. 24

Give regards to all the brethren with a holy kiss. 25

I charge you by the Lord to make this letter known to all our friends. 26

The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 27

(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.)

NOTE.—This letter was evidently of later date than 53 A.D., and, from internal evidence (see c. 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

THESSALONIANS.

Greeting.

1 **P**AUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy, to the assembly of Thessalonians, in our God, Father, and Lord
 2 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 ourselves boast in the assemblies of God 4

regarding your obedience and fidelity in all the persecutions and afflictions 5 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 7 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 8 power: in fiery flame giving judgment to those not perceiving God, and to those not attending to the glad tidings 9 of our Lord Jesus, whose sentence shall be eternal banishment from the presence of the Lord, and from His 10 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 12 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 2 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 5 is God. Do you not remember that whilst we were with you we told you 6 this? And you also know the present restraint to his development until his 7 proper time. For the mystery of that lawlessness already operates; only the 8 Restraint 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- 9 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 10 among the perishing, who accepted not the love of the truth, so that they themselves might be saved. And, be- 11 cause of this, God will send to them an energy of error, for themselves to make the Falsehood credible; so that 12 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 13 thanks to God always for you, dear brethren, loved by the Lord; because God brought you a firstfruit into salvation, by purity of spirit and confidence in the truth, into which He called you, 14 through our good message, to acquire rectification from our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand 15 and secure the charge which you have been taught, either by our speech or letter. And our Lord Jesus Christ 16 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, 17 and establish you in every beneficent work and word.

Concluding Exhortation.

In conclusion, brethren, pray for us, 3 so that the teaching of the Lord may run and be honoured, as it did towards you; and that we may be rescued 2 from bad and wicked men: for the faith is not with all. But the Lord is 3 faithful, Who will strengthen you, and guard you from the wicked. And we 4 are confident in the Lord concerning you, that what we have commanded, you both do and will do; and may 5 the Lord guide your hearts into the love of God, and into the patience of Christ.

But we advise you, brethren, in the 6 Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, avoid every brother conducting himself idly, and not according to the direction which he received from us. For your- 7 selves know how to imitate us rightly; because we were not idle among you, nor did we eat unpurchased bread sup- 8 plied by any one; but, on the contrary, we worked night and day with labour

and toil, so as not to be a burden to
 9 any of you. Not because we had no
 authority; but so that we might give
 ourselves a pattern to you, to imitate
 10 us. And besides, when we were with
 you we commanded this, that if any
 one would not work, he should not be
 11 fed. For we hear of some going dis-
 orderly among you, never working,
 12 but trifling. But we order and direct
 such in the Lord Jesus Christ, that
 they should themselves quietly earn
 13 the bread they eat. And you, my
 brethren, do not abstain from doing
 14 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, 15
 regard him as an enemy; but rather
 correct him as a brother.

The Attestation.

Now may the Lord of peace Him- 16
 self give you peace in every form.
 The Lord be with you all. The sig- 17
 nature by my own hand, PAUL, which
 is my sign in every letter, I write thus.

The blessing of our Lord Jesus 18
 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 EPISTLE 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
 2 Hope, to Timothy, my true child
 in faith: Blessing, mercy, peace,
 from God, Father, and our Lord
 Jesus Christ.

General Instructions.

3 I requested you to remain in
 Ephesus when I went into Macedonia,
 so that you should give order to some
 4 not to teach false doctrine, nor to
 investigate interminable genealogical
 legends; which questions impede
 rather than expedite the administra-
 5 tion of God in the faith: while the
 object of its teaching is love from a
 pure heart, a good conscience, and
 6 unpretended faith—some missing
 which have wandered into silly dis-
 7 cussion, wishing to be teachers of
 law; but not understanding either
 what they say, or of what they are
 8 asserting. But we know how
 excellent the law is, if any one makes
 9 use of it lawfully: knowing this, that
 law is not opposed to the righteous, but
 to the wicked, and disorderly, and sin-
 ners; to the unholy and depraved; to
 outragers of father and mother; to
 10 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 11
 the blessed God, as I have myself
 believed it.

I have been endowed with an office 12
 from Christ Jesus our Lord, Who em-
 powered me, because He thought me
 faithful, appointing me to a ministry:
 although I was before an abuser, a per- 13
 secutor, and brutal; however, I found
 pity, because I had done it unknow-
 14 ingly in the absence of faith. But the
 bounty of our Lord, with the faith and
 love which are in Christ Jesus, was ex-
 cessive. The Word is true, and worthy 15
 of full reception, that Christ Jesus
 came into the world to save sinners,
 of whom I am foremost. But for this 16
 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 17
 to the King of the eternities—im-
 perishable, invisible, Alone God—be
 honour and majesty, through the
 ages of the ages. Amen.

I deposit with you this command, 18
 son Timothy, subsequent to the
 former instructions to you, so that
 in them you might wage the noble
 war; having faith and a perfect under- 19
 standing,—which some having sailed