



**Come Follow Me 2023**  
**1 & 2 Thessalonians**



## **New Testament Seminary Manual**

**Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians (see 1 Thessalonians 1:1; see also 2:18) from Corinth during his second missionary journey," around A.D. 50–51 (Guide to the Scriptures, "Pauline Epistles," scriptures.lds.org). [This epistle] is believed to be the earliest of Paul's existing epistles and may be the oldest book in the New Testament.**

**Thessalonica was the most populous and prosperous city in the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia because of two important features: the city was built on the best natural harbor in the Aegean Sea, and it was located on the major highway that connected Rome and Asia.**

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**During Paul's second missionary journey, the Spirit directed Paul and his companions—Silas, Timothy, and Luke—to travel across the Aegean Sea into Macedonia (see Acts 16:6–12). This initiated the preaching of the gospel in Europe. After preaching in Philippi (see Acts 16:12–40), Paul and Silas traveled to Thessalonica.**

**Paul labored with Silas in Thessalonica, but they were forced out of the city by Jewish leaders (see Acts 17:1–9). Later, Timothy reported to Paul that the Thessalonian Saints had remained faithful despite persecution and that their righteous influence was spreading (see Acts 18:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:7–8; 3:6–8).**

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**The Thessalonian converts were some of the first Europeans to embrace the gospel, and they faced persecution as a result. They also had many questions about the Second Coming. Therefore, in his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul wrote words of encouragement and strength and addressed their questions about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**



Macedonia

Philippi

Berea

Thessalonica

Troas

Galatia

Antioch

Ephesus

Iconium

Athens

Pisidia

Miletus

Lystra

Derbe

Tarsus

Corinth

Lycia

Pamphylia

Cilicia

Antioch

Syria

Tyre

1 Thessalonians 1

that ye likewise read the <sup>a</sup>epistle from Laodicea.

17 And say to <sup>a</sup>Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

18 The salutation by the <sup>a</sup>hand of me Paul. Remember my <sup>b</sup>bonds. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

¶ Written from Rome to the Colossians by Tychicus and Onesimus.

## THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

### CHAPTER 1

*The gospel comes both in word and in power.*

**P**AUL, and <sup>a</sup>Silvanus, and <sup>b</sup>Timotheus, <sup>c</sup>unto the <sup>a</sup>church of the <sup>e</sup>Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give <sup>a</sup>thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of <sup>a</sup>faith, and <sup>b</sup>labour of love, and <sup>c</sup>patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 Knowing, brethren <sup>a</sup>beloved, your <sup>b</sup>election of God.

5 For our <sup>a</sup>gospel <sup>b</sup>came not unto you in <sup>c</sup>word only, but also in <sup>a</sup>power, and in the <sup>e</sup>Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what <sup>f</sup>manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And ye became <sup>a</sup>followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much <sup>b</sup>affliction, with <sup>c</sup>joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were <sup>a</sup>ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every <sup>a</sup>place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had

The Thessalonians' Faith and Example

Paul's Ministry to the Thessalonians

unto you, and how ye turned to God from <sup>a</sup>idols to serve the <sup>b</sup>living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from <sup>a</sup>heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which <sup>b</sup>delivered us from the <sup>c</sup>wrath to come.

### CHAPTER 2

*True ministers preach in a godly manner—Converts are the glory and joy of missionaries.*

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3 For our exhortation *was* not of <sup>a</sup>deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in <sup>b</sup>guile:

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9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and <sup>a</sup>travail: for <sup>b</sup>labouring night and day, because we would not be <sup>c</sup>chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

10 Ye *are* <sup>a</sup>witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

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12 That ye would <sup>a</sup>walk <sup>b</sup>worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

13 For this cause also <sup>a</sup>thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

14 For ye, brethren, became <sup>a</sup>followers of the churches of God which in Judæa are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have <sup>b</sup>suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

15 Who both <sup>a</sup>killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

16 <sup>a</sup>Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved,

16a TG Scriptures, Lost.  
17a Philem. 1:2.  
18a 2 Thes. 3:17.  
b Heb. 13:3.

unto the church of the Thessalonians; grace unto you . . .  
d TG Jesus Christ, Head of

b 1 Thes. 2:1.  
c 1 Cor. 2:4.  
d TG Holy Ghost, Gifts of.  
e TG Holy Ghost, Source

9a TG Idolatry.  
b D&C 20:19.  
10a Acts 1:11 (9-11).  
b TG Deliver.  
c 1 Thes. 5:9.  
2 1a 1 Thes. 1:5.

d Titus 2:1;  
1 Pet. 4:11.  
e TG Peer Influence.  
f GR examines, proves by trial.  
TG Test.

1 Cor. 9:18 (4-18);  
2 Cor. 11:9.  
10a 1 Thes. 1:5.  
11a 1 Cor. 4:14.  
12a TG Walking with God.  
b 1 Pet. 1:15 (15-16).

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## **Elder Bruce R. McConkie**

**“The true gospel consists of two things: The Word, and The Power. Anyone can have the word; the books in which it is written are universally available. But the power must come from God; it is and must be dispensed according to his mind and his will to those who abide the law entitling them to receive it. The word of the gospel is the spoken or written account of what men must do to be saved. ...**



## **Elder Bruce R. McConkie**

**“But actual salvation comes only when the power of God is received and used; and this power is the power of the priesthood and the power of the Holy Ghost. These must operate in the lives of men; otherwise their souls cannot be cleansed; they cannot be born again; they cannot become new creatures of the Holy Ghost; they cannot put off the natural man and become saints; they cannot be sanctified by the Spirit” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3 vols. [1965–73], 3:42–43).**

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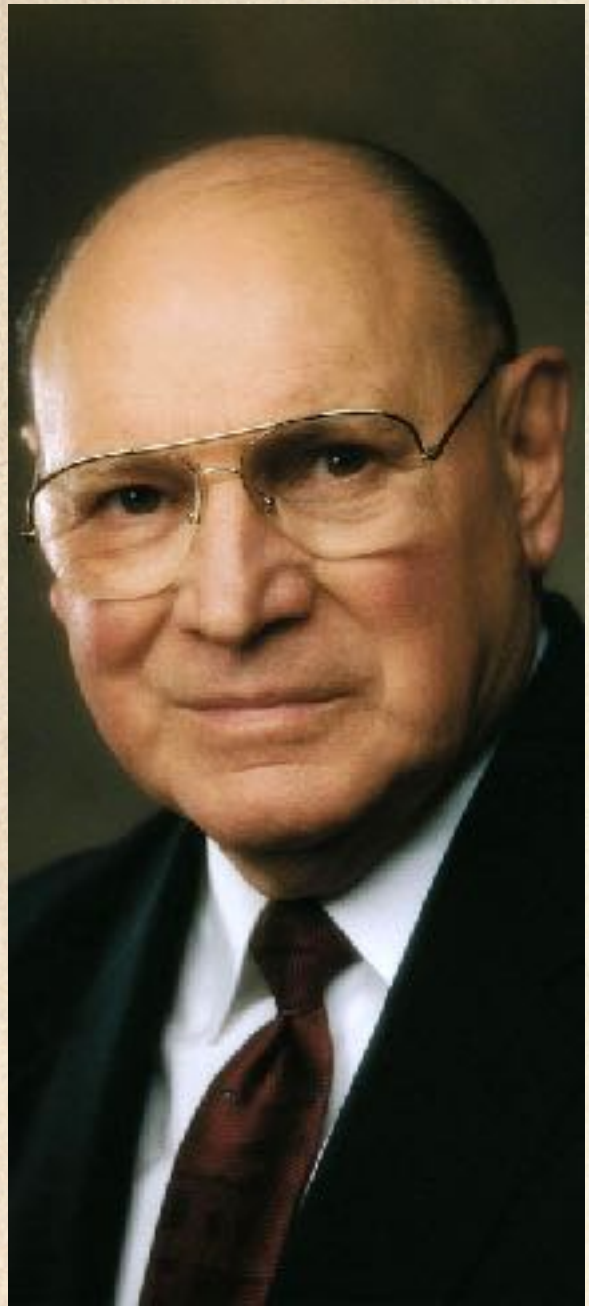
12 Tha of God, his king

13 For God wi

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b 1 Thes. 2:1.

c 1 Cor. 2:4.



## Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

**“Paul rejoiced in the fact that what he had told the Thessalonians was not meaningless words to them, for they had listened with great interest, and what was taught them produced a powerful desire for righteousness in their lives. ... Paul was pleased that the gospel message had been received with such joy and happiness, despite many hardships. Finally, he noted what must have been their crowning achievement—that they were inspiring examples to all their neighbors and that from them the word of the Lord had extended to others everywhere, far beyond their boundaries. Paul paid tribute to them when he told them that wherever he traveled, he found people telling him about their remarkable good works and faith in God.”**

*(“There Am I in the Midst of Them,” Apr 1976 GC).*



## President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

**“The most effective way to preach the gospel is through example. If we live according to our beliefs, people will notice. If the countenance of Jesus Christ shines in our lives [see Alma 5:14], if we are joyful and at peace with the world, people will want to know why. One of the greatest sermons ever pronounced on missionary work is this simple thought attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi: ‘Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words’ [in William Fay and Linda Evans Shepherd, *Share Jesus without Fear* (1999), 22].”**

*(“Waiting on the Road to Damascus,” Apr. 2011 GC).*

1 *Thessalonians* 2-3



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15 Who both <sup>a</sup>killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

16 <sup>a</sup>Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved,

to fill up their sins <sup>b</sup>alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your <sup>a</sup>face with great desire.

18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his <sup>a</sup>coming?

20 For ye are our glory and joy.

CHAPTER 3

*The Saints are told to perfect that which is lacking in their faith.*

WHEREFORE when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at <sup>a</sup>Athens alone;

2 And sent <sup>a</sup>Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow-labourer in the gospel of Christ, to <sup>b</sup>establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

3 That no man should be <sup>a</sup>moved by these <sup>b</sup>afflictions: for yourselves know that we are <sup>c</sup>appointed thereunto.

4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the <sup>a</sup>tempter have <sup>b</sup>tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us

good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:

7 Therefore, brethren, we were <sup>a</sup>comforted over you in all our <sup>b</sup>affliction and distress by your faith:

8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the <sup>a</sup>joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your <sup>a</sup>face, and might <sup>b</sup>perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

12 And the Lord make you to increase and <sup>a</sup>abound in <sup>b</sup>love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the <sup>a</sup>coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his <sup>b</sup>saints.

CHAPTER 4

*The Saints are told to be holy, sanctify themselves, and love one another—The Lord will come, and the dead will rise.*

FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have <sup>a</sup>received of us how ye ought to <sup>b</sup>walk and to <sup>c</sup>please God, so ye would <sup>a</sup>abound more and more.

2 For ye know what commandments <sup>a</sup>we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

Paul's Longing to See Them Again

Timothy's Encouraging Report

9a TG Idolatry.

b D&C 20:19.

10a Acts 1:11 (9–11).

b TG Deliver.

c 1 Thes. 5:9.

2 1a 1 Thes. 1:5.

d Titus 2:1;

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1 Cor. 9:18 (4–18);

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10a 1 Thes. 1:5.

11a 1 Cor. 4:14.

12a TG Walking with God.

b 1 Pet. 1:15 (15–16).

16b GR always.

17a 1 Thes. 3:10.

19a 1 Thes. 3:13.

b Acts 20:23;

JS—H 1:24 (23–24).

c Acts 9:15 (15–16).

b TG Perfection.

12a 1 Thes. 4:1.

b D&C 121:45

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14 For ye, brethren, became *a*fol

### Doctrine and Covenants 12:8

**“No one can assist in this work except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity.”**

unto you, and how ye turned to God from <sup>a</sup>idols to serve the <sup>b</sup>living and true God;

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## Jean B. Bingham

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*(“Ministering as the Savior Does,” Apr. 2018 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2018, 104)*



1 *Thessalonians* 4



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4 That every one of you should know how to possess his <sup>a</sup>vessel in <sup>b</sup>sanctification and honour;

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8 He therefore that <sup>a</sup>despiseth, <sup>b</sup>despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his <sup>c</sup>holy Spirit.

9 But as touching <sup>a</sup>brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are <sup>b</sup>taught of God to <sup>c</sup>love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye <sup>a</sup>study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to <sup>b</sup>work with your own <sup>c</sup>hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk <sup>a</sup>honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye <sup>a</sup>sorrow not, even as others which have no <sup>b</sup>hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which <sup>a</sup>sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, <sup>a</sup>that <sup>b</sup>we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not <sup>c</sup>prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall <sup>a</sup>descend from heaven with <sup>b</sup>a shout, with the voice of the <sup>c</sup>archangel, and with the <sup>a</sup>trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall <sup>c</sup>rise first:

17 <sup>a</sup>Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be <sup>b</sup>caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the <sup>c</sup>Lord in the <sup>a</sup>air: and so shall we <sup>c</sup>ever be with the <sup>f</sup>Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

CHAPTER 5

*The Saints will know the season of the Second Coming of Christ—Live the way Saints should live—Rejoice evermore—Do not despise prophesyings.*

16b GR always.  
17a 1 Thes. 3:10.  
19a 1 Thes. 3:13.

b Acts 20:23;  
JS—H 1:24 (23–24).  
c Acts 9:15 (15–16).

b TG Perfection.  
12a 1 Thes. 4:1.  
b D&C 121:45

3a Heb. 12:14.  
b TG Abstain.  
c GR immorality.  
TG Chastity; Fornication; Sexual Immorality; Whore.  
4a TG Body, Sanctity of.  
b TG Sanctification.  
5a GR passion of lust.  
TG Lust; Marriage, Husbands.  
b Eph. 4:17 (17, 19).  
c Eph. 2:12 (11–12).  
6a GR take advantage of, wrong

b John 6:45;  
1 Jn. 2:27 (20, 27).  
c TG Love.  
11a GR strive, endeavor earnestly.  
b TG Industry; Labor; Skill; Work, Value of.  
c Prov. 31:13.  
12a TG Dependability; Honesty.  
13a TG Despair; Mourning; Sorrow.  
b Eph. 2:12.  
14a Zech. 14:5.  
15a 1st 1 Thes. 4:15 that

16a TG Jesus Christ, Second Coming.  
b GR a cry of command, a cheer.  
c TG Adam.  
d Matt. 24:31.  
e TG Resurrection.  
17a JST 1 Thes. 4:17 Then *they who* are alive, shall be caught up together *into* the clouds *with them who remain*, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we be ever with the Lord

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15 For

16 For

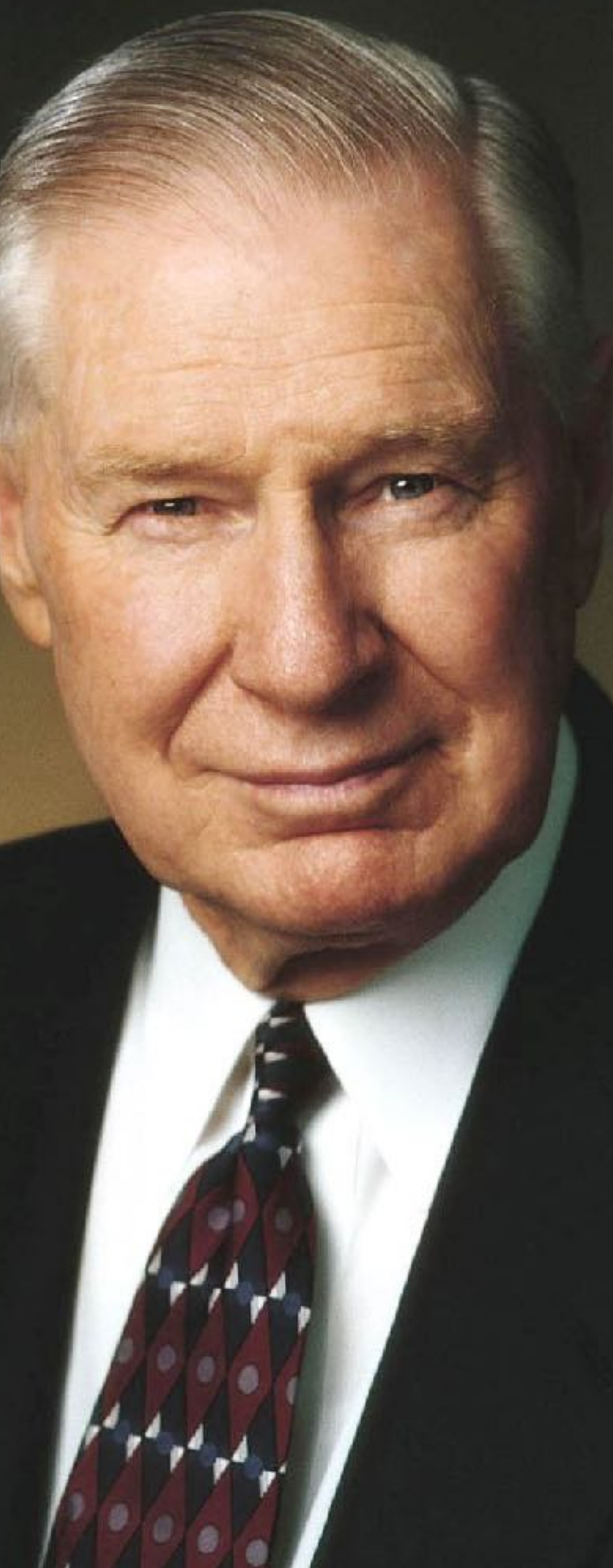
17 <sup>a</sup>Th

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Acts 20:23;  
JS—H 1:24 (23–24).  
Acts 9:15 (15–16).  
D&C 29:39 (39–40, 47);  
Moses 4:4 (3–4).  
CB put to trial test

<sup>b</sup> TG Perfection.  
12 <sup>a</sup> 1 Thes. 4:1.  
<sup>b</sup> D&C 121:45.  
13 <sup>a</sup> 1 Cor. 1:7 (7–8);  
1 Thes. 2:19;  
Rev. 1:7, 22:12



## President James E. Faust

**“Holiness ... comes by faith and through obedience to God’s laws and ordinances. God then purifies the heart by faith, and the heart becomes purged from that which is profane and unworthy.”**

*(“Standing in Holy Places,” Apr. 2005 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2005, 62).*

you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto <sup>a</sup>uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that <sup>a</sup>despiseth, <sup>b</sup>despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his <sup>c</sup>holy Spirit.

9 But as touching <sup>a</sup>brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are <sup>b</sup>taught of God to <sup>c</sup>love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye <sup>a</sup>study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to <sup>b</sup>work with your own <sup>c</sup>hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk <sup>a</sup>honestly toward them that are without, and *that ye may have lack of nothing.*

them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall <sup>a</sup>descend from heaven with <sup>b</sup>a shout, with the voice of the <sup>c</sup>archangel, and with the <sup>d</sup>trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall <sup>e</sup>rise first:

17 <sup>a</sup>Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be <sup>b</sup>caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the <sup>c</sup>Lord in the <sup>d</sup>air: and so shall we <sup>e</sup>ever be with the <sup>f</sup>Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

## CHAPTER 5

*The Saints will know the season of the Second Coming of Christ—Live the way Saints should live—Rejoice evermore—Do not despise prophesyings.*

3a Heb. 12:14.  
b TG Abstain.  
c GR immorality.

b John 6:45;  
1 Jn. 2:27 (20, 27).  
c TG Love.

16a TG Jesus Christ, Second Coming.  
b GR a cry of command, a

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

In 1 Thessalonians 4:10, Paul counseled the Saints to “increase more and more” in their love toward one another. He encouraged them to endeavor to lead a quiet life, to not meddle in the affairs of others, to work with their own hands and avoid dependency on others, and to be honest (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12). Concerning the idea of living a quiet life, **Elder Bruce D. Porter** of the Seventy taught: “Personal prayer, study, and pondering are vital to the building up of the kingdom within our own souls. It is in quiet moments of contemplation and communion with the Almighty that we come to know and love Him as our Father” (“Building the Kingdom,” Apr. 2001 GC, Ensign, May 2001, 81).

1501  
3 For this is the will of God, *even* your <sup>a</sup>sanctification, that ye should <sup>b</sup>abstain from <sup>c</sup>fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his <sup>a</sup>vessel in <sup>b</sup>sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the <sup>a</sup>lust of concupiscence, even as the <sup>b</sup>Gentiles which <sup>c</sup>know not God:

6 That no *man* <sup>a</sup>go beyond and defraud his brother in <sup>b</sup>any matter: because that the Lord *is* the <sup>c</sup>avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto <sup>a</sup>uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that <sup>a</sup>despiseth, <sup>b</sup>despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his <sup>c</sup>holy Spirit.

9 But as touching <sup>a</sup>brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are <sup>b</sup>taught of God to <sup>c</sup>love one another.

10 And indeed we do it toward all

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye <sup>a</sup>sorrow not, even as others which have no <sup>b</sup>hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which <sup>a</sup>sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, <sup>a</sup>that <sup>b</sup>we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not <sup>c</sup>prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall <sup>a</sup>descend from heaven with <sup>b</sup>a shout, with the voice of the <sup>c</sup>archangel, and with the <sup>d</sup>trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall <sup>e</sup>rise first:

17 <sup>a</sup>Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be <sup>b</sup>caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall

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## CHAPTER 5



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**The Joseph Smith Translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17 reads: “Then they who are alive, shall be caught up together into the clouds with them who remain, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we be ever with the Lord” (in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, footnote a). [Notice that the JST replaces we in these verses with they, reflecting that the Second Coming would not occur in Paul’s day.] Many Christians use the word rapture (from a Latin term meaning “caught up”) when referring to the time when the righteous will be caught up to meet the Savior at His coming.**



## **Elder Neil L. Andersen**

**“Nothing lifts my desire to speak of Christ more than visualizing His return. While we do not know when He will come, the events of His return will be breathtaking! He will come in the clouds of heaven in majesty and glory with all His holy angels. Not just a few angels but all His holy angels. These are not the cherry-cheeked cherubim painted by Raphael, found on our Valentine cards. These are the angels of the centuries, the angels sent to shut the mouths of lions, to open prison doors, to announce His long-awaited birth, to comfort Him in Gethsemane, to assure His disciples at His Ascension, and to open the glorious Restoration of the gospel.**



## Elder Neil L. Andersen

**“Can you imagine being caught up to meet Him, whether on this side or the other side of the veil? That is His promise to the righteous. This amazing experience will mark our souls forever.”**

*(“We Talk of Christ,” Oct. 2020 GC, Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2020, 91)*

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3a Heb. 12:14.

b TG Abstain.

c GR immorality.

TG Chastity;  
Fornication; Sexual

b John 6:45;

1 Jn. 2:27 (20, 27).

c TG Love.

11a GR strive, endeavor  
earnestly.

16a TG Jesus Christ, Second  
Coming.

b GR a cry of command, a  
cheer.

c TG Adam.

1 *Thessalonians* 5

BUT of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the <sup>a</sup>day of the Lord so cometh as a <sup>b</sup>thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and <sup>a</sup>safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not <sup>b</sup>escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in <sup>a</sup>darkness, that that <sup>b</sup>day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the <sup>a</sup>children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not <sup>a</sup>sleep, as do others; but let us <sup>b</sup>watch and be <sup>c</sup>sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be <sup>a</sup>sober, putting on the <sup>b</sup>breastplate of <sup>c</sup>faith and love; and for an helmet, the <sup>a</sup>hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to <sup>a</sup>wrath, but to obtain <sup>b</sup>salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should <sup>a</sup>live together with him.

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together, and <sup>b</sup>edify one another, even as also ye do.

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23 And the very God of peace <sup>a</sup>sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 2a TG Day of the Lord; Millennium, Preparing a People for.  
b D&C 106:4.  
3a TG Refuge.  
b D&C 1:2.  
4a Rom. 13:12 (12–13).  
b Luke 17:24; 21:34.  
5a GR sons.  
TG Children of Light.  
6a TG Sleep.  
b TG Watch.  
c GR sober, vigilant.

9a 1 Thes. 1:10;  
1 Pet. 2:8 (6–8).  
b TG Salvation.  
10a TG Immortality.  
11a GR exhort, console, encourage.  
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12a TG Leadership.  
13a Philip. 2:29.  
TG Respect.  
b Mark 9:50;  
Rom. 15:5 (1–7);  
D&C 20:54 (53, 55)

15a TG Retribution.  
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24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with an holy <sup>a</sup>kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that

this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

¶ The first *epistle* unto the Thessalonians was written from Athens.\*

## THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

### CHAPTER 1

*At His Second Coming, the Lord Jesus will take vengeance upon the ungodly.*

**P**AUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy, <sup>a</sup>unto the <sup>b</sup>church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the <sup>a</sup>churches of God for your <sup>b</sup>patience and faith in all your <sup>c</sup>persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which* is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that

ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also <sup>a</sup>suffer:

6 Seeing *it* is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled <sup>a</sup>rest with us, when the <sup>b</sup>Lord Jesus shall be <sup>c</sup>revealed from heaven with his mighty <sup>d</sup>angels,

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11 Wherefore also we pray always

26a JST 1 Thes. 5:26 . . .  
*salutation.*

unto the church of the Thessalonians;  
b TG Jesus Christ, Head of

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BUT of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

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## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**Paul next compared the Second Coming of Christ to the unexpected arrival of a thief (see 1 Thessalonians 5:2), a comparison earlier used by Jesus Christ (see Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39). Paul taught that because the followers of Jesus Christ “are not in darkness” they will not be caught off guard by the Lord’s return (1 Thessalonians 5:4–5). Paul compared the disciples of Jesus Christ to a “sober” person who is awake and alert (1 Thessalonians 5:6–8). These disciples are unimpaired by the drunkenness of worldly living that prevents the wicked from recognizing the nearness of the Lord’s coming. In modern-day scripture, the Lord has taught: “And again, verily I say unto you, the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, and it overtaketh the world as a thief in the night—therefore, gird up your loins, that you may be the children of light, and that day shall not overtake you as a thief” (D&C 106:4–5).**



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15 See that none <sup>a</sup>render <sup>b</sup>evil for evil unto any <sup>c</sup>*man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

16 <sup>a</sup>Rejoice evermore.

17 <sup>a</sup>Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give <sup>a</sup>thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**In 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13, Paul encouraged the Saints to “know” and “esteem” those who were “over [them] in the Lord.” Although in these verses Paul did not mention specific offices as he did in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, these teachings suggest that even at this early date (around A.D. 52) there was some sort of a structure of Church leadership. Some modern scholars suggest that the early Church did not have any leadership hierarchy and that leadership structures developed much later, perhaps in the second century. It is possible, however, that the early branches of the Church had a less formal leadership structure than the bishops, elders, and deacons described later in Paul’s writings. This would parallel the early days of the Restoration, when Church leadership started with only a first and second elder, with the First Presidency, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and so on developing later.**

and <sup>a</sup>safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not <sup>b</sup>escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in <sup>a</sup>darkness, that that <sup>b</sup>day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the <sup>a</sup>children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not <sup>a</sup>sleep, as *do* others; but let us <sup>b</sup>watch and be <sup>c</sup>sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be <sup>a</sup>sober, putting on the <sup>b</sup>breastplate of <sup>c</sup>faith and love; and for an helmet, the <sup>d</sup>hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to <sup>a</sup>wrath, but to obtain <sup>b</sup>salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should <sup>a</sup>live

in love for their work's sake. *And be at <sup>b</sup>peace among yourselves*

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, <sup>a</sup>warn them that are <sup>b</sup>unruly, <sup>c</sup>comfort the <sup>d</sup>feebleminded, <sup>e</sup>support the <sup>f</sup>weak, be patient toward all *men*.

15 See that none <sup>a</sup>render <sup>b</sup>evil for evil unto any <sup>c</sup>*man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

16 <sup>a</sup>Rejoice evermore.

17 <sup>a</sup>Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give <sup>a</sup>thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 <sup>a</sup>Quench not the <sup>b</sup>Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 <sup>a</sup>Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 <sup>a</sup>Abstain from all <sup>b</sup>appearance of <sup>c</sup>evil.

23 And the very God of peace <sup>a</sup>sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be

# New Testament Institute Student Manual

Paul asked the Saints to “quench not the Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19). To quench the Spirit means to extinguish or stifle the influence of the Holy Ghost in one’s own life (see also Ephesians 4:30–31). **Elder David A. Bednar** pointed out that to fully enjoy the companionship of the Spirit, we must avoid activities that will drive the Spirit from us:

“If something we think, see, hear, or do distances us from the Holy Ghost, then we should stop thinking, seeing, hearing, or doing that thing. If that which is intended to entertain, for example, alienates us from the Holy Spirit, then certainly that type of entertainment is not for us. Because the Spirit cannot abide that which is vulgar, crude, or immodest, then clearly such things are not for us. Because we estrange the Spirit of the Lord when we engage in activities we know we should shun, then such things definitely are not for us.

## Elder David A. Bednar

**“... As we become ever more immersed in the Spirit of the Lord, we should strive to recognize impressions when they come and the influences or events that cause us to withdraw ourselves from the Holy Ghost.”**

*(“That We May Always Have His Spirit to Be with Us,” Apr. 2006 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2006, 30).*

15 See that none <sup>a</sup>render <sup>b</sup>evil for evil unto any <sup>c</sup>man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

16 <sup>a</sup>Rejoice evermore.

17 <sup>a</sup>Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give <sup>a</sup>thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

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21 <sup>a</sup>Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 <sup>a</sup>Abstain from all <sup>b</sup>appearance of <sup>c</sup>evil

23 And the very God of peace <sup>a</sup>sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with an holy <sup>a</sup>kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that

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THE SECOND EPIST  
PAUL THE APOSTLE  
THESSALON

CHAPTER 1

*At His Second Coming, the Lord Jesus will take vengeance upon the ungodly.*

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kingdo

<sup>a</sup>suffer

6 Seei

Thes. 1:10;  
Pet. 2:8 (6–8).  
G Salvation.  
G Immortality.

15a TG Retribution.  
b TG Forbear.  
c TG Enemies.  
16a TG Joy.

2 Thessalonians 1



## **New Testament Seminary Manual**

**Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth during his second missionary journey. The themes of 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians are similar, suggesting that Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to clarify and expand on the first epistle. It appears that the Thessalonians had received a fraudulent letter that claimed to be from Paul and that this letter had caused some to believe that the Second Coming had already occurred (see 2 Thessalonians 2:2).**

**“In the short interval between the two epistles the Church suffered from persecution (2 Thes. 1:4); the prospect of an immediate return of the Lord fostered an unhealthy excitement (2:2)” (Bible Dictionary, “Pauline Epistles”). Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians in order to strengthen the faith of these members and to correct doctrinal misunderstandings.**

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.  
 25 Brethren, pray for us.  
 26 Greet all the brethren with an holy <sup>a</sup>kiss.  
 27 I charge you by the Lord that

this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.  
 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.  
 ¶ The first *epistle* unto the Thessalonians was written from Athens.\*

## THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

### CHAPTER 1

*At His Second Coming, the Lord Jesus will take vengeance upon the ungodly.*

Greeting

**P**AUL, and Silvanus, and Timothy, <sup>a</sup>unto the <sup>b</sup>church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the <sup>a</sup>churches of God for your <sup>b</sup>patience and faith in all your <sup>c</sup>persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which* is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that

ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also <sup>a</sup>suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled <sup>a</sup>rest with us, when the <sup>b</sup>Lord Jesus shall be <sup>c</sup>revealed from heaven with his mighty <sup>d</sup>angels,

8 In flaming <sup>a</sup>fire taking <sup>b</sup>vengeance on them that know not God, and that <sup>c</sup>obey not the <sup>d</sup>gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be <sup>a</sup>punished with <sup>b</sup>everlasting <sup>c</sup>destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be <sup>a</sup>glorified in his <sup>b</sup>saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always

26a JST 1 Thes. 5:26 . . . salutation.

\* More recent scholarship

unto the church of the Thessalonians;  
 b TG Jesus Christ, Head of the Church.

Coming.  
 d D&C 76:21.  
 8a TG World, End of.  
 b 1 Thes. 4:6.

for you, that our God would count you <sup>a</sup>worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the <sup>a</sup>grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### CHAPTER 2

*Apostasy is to precede the Second Coming—The gospel prepares men for eternal glory.*

Now we beseech you, brethren, <sup>a</sup>by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, <sup>a</sup>or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by <sup>b</sup>letter as from us, as that the <sup>c</sup>day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: <sup>a</sup>for *that day shall not come*, except there come a <sup>b</sup>falling away first, and that <sup>c</sup>man of <sup>a</sup>sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who <sup>a</sup>opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know <sup>a</sup>what withholdeth that he might be <sup>b</sup>revealed in his time.

The Man of Lawlessness

The Judgment at Christ's Coming

11a TG Worthiness.  
 12a TG Grace.

2 1a GR concerning.  
 2a JST 2 Thes. 2:2 . . . or be troubled *by letter, except ye receive it from us;* neither by spirit, nor by word, as that the day of

Early Christian Church.  
 c TG Antichrist; Devil.

d TG Sin.  
 4a TG Opposition.  
 6a GR the one who possesses, holds in firm grasp, restrains

possesses, holds in firm grasp, restrains.

8a GR Lawless one.  
 b TG Jesus Christ, Second Coming.  
 9a TG False Priesthoods.  
 b TG Signs.  
 12a GR brought to account

Stand Firm

**P**AUL, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, <sup>a</sup>unto the <sup>b</sup>church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the <sup>a</sup>churches of God for your <sup>b</sup>patience and faith in all your <sup>c</sup>persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which* is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that

<sup>6</sup> seeing *it* is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled <sup>a</sup>rest with us, when the <sup>b</sup>Lord Jesus shall be <sup>c</sup>revealed from heaven with his mighty <sup>d</sup>angels,

8 In flaming <sup>a</sup>fire taking <sup>b</sup>vengeance on them that know not God, and that <sup>c</sup>obey not the <sup>d</sup>gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be <sup>a</sup>punished with <sup>b</sup>everlasting <sup>c</sup>destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be <sup>a</sup>glorified in his <sup>b</sup>saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always

26a JST 1 Thes. 5:26 . . .  
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\* More recent scholarship

unto the church of the Thessalonians;  
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ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also <sup>a</sup>suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

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10 When he shall come to be <sup>a</sup>glorified in his <sup>b</sup>saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was

## Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

**“I say to all and especially the youth of the Church that if you haven’t already, you will one day find yourself called upon to defend your faith or perhaps even endure some personal abuse simply because you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”**

*(“The Cost—and Blessings—of Discipleship,” Apr. 2014 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2014, 6).*

ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also <sup>a</sup>suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled <sup>a</sup>rest with us, when the <sup>b</sup>Lord Jesus shall be <sup>c</sup>revealed from heaven with his mighty <sup>d</sup>angels,

8 In flaming <sup>a</sup>fire taking <sup>b</sup>vengeance on them that know not God, and that <sup>c</sup>obey not the <sup>d</sup>gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be <sup>a</sup>punished with <sup>b</sup>everlasting <sup>c</sup>destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be <sup>a</sup>glorified in his <sup>b</sup>saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was

## President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

**“Patience is not passive resignation, nor is it failing to act because of our fears. Patience means active waiting and enduring. It means staying with something and doing all that we can—working, hoping, and exercising faith; bearing hardship with fortitude, even when the desires of our hearts are delayed. Patience is not simply enduring; it is enduring well!”**

*(“Continue in Patience,” Apr. 2010 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2010, 57).*

*At His Second Coming, the Lord Jesus will take vengeance upon the ungodly.*

**P**AUL, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, <sup>a</sup>unto the <sup>b</sup>church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the <sup>a</sup>churches of God for your <sup>b</sup>patience and faith in all your <sup>c</sup>persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that*

kingdom of God, for which ye also <sup>a</sup>suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled <sup>a</sup>rest with us, when the <sup>b</sup>Lord Jesus shall be <sup>c</sup>revealed from heaven with his mighty <sup>d</sup>angels,

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10 When he shall come to be <sup>a</sup>glorified in his <sup>b</sup>saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 wherefore also we pray always

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**Paul spoke strongly against the Church's persecutors, saying that they would "be punished with everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9). The Joseph Smith Translation changes the placement of the word "everlasting" in verse 9: "Who shall be punished with destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his everlasting power" (Joseph Smith Translation, 2 Thessalonians 1:9).**

**Speaking of wicked people who seek to destroy the tender testimonies of others, the Lord warned that it would be better for them to have a millstone (a large stone used to grind wheat) hung around their neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea than to face Christ at the Day of Judgment (see Matthew 18:5–6; D&C 121:19–23).**

2 Thessalonians 2-3





for you, that our God would count you <sup>a</sup>worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the <sup>a</sup>grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 2

*Apostasy is to precede the Second Coming—The gospel prepares men for eternal glory.*

Now we beseech you, brethren, <sup>a</sup>by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, <sup>a</sup>or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by <sup>b</sup>letter as from us, as that the <sup>c</sup>day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: <sup>a</sup>for *that day shall not come*, except there come a <sup>b</sup>falling away first, and that <sup>c</sup>man of <sup>a</sup>sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who <sup>a</sup>opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know <sup>a</sup>what withholdeth that he might be <sup>b</sup>revealed in his time.

11a TG Worthiness.  
12a TG Grace.  
2 1a GR concerning.  
2a JST 2 Thes. 2:2 . . . or be troubled by letter, except ye receive it from us;  
neither by spirit, nor by

Early Christian Church.  
c TG Antichrist;  
Devil.  
d TG Sin.  
4a TG Opposition.  
6a GR the one who possesses, holds in firm

possesses, holds in firm grasp, restrains.  
8a GR Lawless one.  
b TG Jesus Christ, Second Coming.  
9a TG False Priesthoods.  
b TG Signs.

7 <sup>a</sup>For the <sup>b</sup>mystery of <sup>c</sup>iniquity doth already work: only <sup>d</sup>he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that <sup>a</sup>Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his <sup>b</sup>coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all <sup>a</sup>power and <sup>b</sup>signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be <sup>a</sup>damned who <sup>b</sup>believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning <sup>a</sup>chosen you to salvation through <sup>b</sup>sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our <sup>a</sup>gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath <sup>a</sup>loved us, and hath

given *us* everlasting <sup>b</sup>consolation and good hope through <sup>c</sup>grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

CHAPTER 3

*Pray for the triumph of the gospel cause—Paul preaches the gospel of work—Be not weary in well-doing.*

FINALLY, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord <sup>a</sup>may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from <sup>a</sup>unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from <sup>a</sup>evil.

4 And we have <sup>a</sup>confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord <sup>a</sup>direct your hearts into the <sup>b</sup>love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye <sup>a</sup>withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh <sup>b</sup>disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to <sup>a</sup>follow us: for we <sup>b</sup>behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

16b 2 Cor. 1:4;  
Philip. 3:10.  
c TG Grace.

3 1a GR may progress freely, rapidly.  
2a GR unsuitable, absurd, improper.  
3a GR the evil one, the devil.  
4a TG Dependability

5:57 (56–57).  
TG Excommunication.  
b Rom. 16:17 (17–19).  
7a GR imitate.  
b 1 Thes. 1:5.  
8a GR undeservedly, gratuitously.  
b TG Work, Value of.  
9a GR authority.  
b TG Example

11a 1 Thes. 5:14.  
12a TG Bread.  
13a Gal. 6:9.  
15a TG Enemies.  
b TG Warn.  
c TG Brotherhood and Sisterhood.  
17a Col. 4:18.  
\* More recent scholarship

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread <sup>a</sup>for nought; but wrought with <sup>b</sup>labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not <sup>a</sup>power, but to make ourselves an <sup>b</sup>ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not <sup>a</sup>work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you <sup>a</sup>disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own <sup>a</sup>bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not <sup>a</sup>weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count *him* not as an <sup>a</sup>enemy, but <sup>b</sup>admonish *him* as a <sup>c</sup>brother.

16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own <sup>a</sup>hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

¶ The second *epistle* to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.\*

## CHAPTER 2

*Apostasy is to precede the Second Coming—The gospel prepares men for eternal glory.*

Now we beseech you, brethren, <sup>a</sup>by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, <sup>a</sup>or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by <sup>b</sup>letter as from us, as that the <sup>c</sup>day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: <sup>a</sup>for *that day shall not come*, except there come a <sup>b</sup>falling away first, and that <sup>c</sup>man of <sup>d</sup>sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who <sup>a</sup>opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I

the working of Satan with all <sup>a</sup>power and <sup>b</sup>signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

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12 That they all might be <sup>a</sup>damned who <sup>b</sup>believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning <sup>a</sup>chosen you to salvation through <sup>b</sup>sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our <sup>a</sup>gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**In order to calm the Saints' concern that the Lord had already returned, Paul explained that before the Second Coming there would be a "falling away first" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). "Falling away" is a translation of the Greek word *apostasia*, a word that is closer in meaning to "rebellion" or "mutiny." Paul was therefore speaking of an intentional fight against the gospel of Jesus Christ rather than a gradual movement away from it. In the Book of Mormon, Nephi's vision of the future taught him that "the house of Israel" joined with those in the great and spacious building "to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (1 Nephi 11:35). Apostasy is often not simply a passive letting go of truth but an active rebellion that originates within the covenant community.**



## Elder Neal A. Maxwell

**“New Testament epistles clearly indicate that serious and widespread apostasy—not just sporadic dissent—began soon. James decried ‘wars and fightings among’ the Church (James 4:1). Paul lamented ‘divisions’ in the Church and how ‘grievous wolves’ would not spare ‘the flock’ (1 Cor. 11:18; Acts 20:29–31). He knew an apostasy was coming and wrote to the Thessalonians that Jesus’ second coming would not occur ‘except there come a falling away first’; further advising that ‘iniquity doth already work’ (2 Thes. 2:3, 7).**



## **Elder Neal A. Maxwell**

**“Near the end, Paul acknowledged how very extensive the falling away was: ‘All they which are in Asia be turned away from me’ (2 Tim. 1:15). ...**

**“Widespread fornication and idolatry brought apostolic alarm (see 1 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:3; Jude 1:7). John and Paul both bemoaned the rise of false Apostles (see 2 Cor. 11:13; Rev. 2:2). The Church was clearly under siege. Some not only fell away but then openly opposed. In one circumstance, Paul stood alone and lamented that ‘all men forsook me’ (2 Tim. 4:16). He also decried those who ‘subvert[ed] whole houses’ (Titus 1:11).**



## Elder Neal A. Maxwell

**“Some local leaders rebelled, as when one, who loved his preeminence, refused to receive the brethren (see 3 Jn. 1:9–10).**

**“No wonder President Brigham Young observed: ‘It is said the Priesthood was taken from the Church, but it is not so, the Church went from the Priesthood’ (in Journal of Discourses, 12:69).**

**“The concerns expressed by Peter, John, Paul, and James over the falling away were not paranoia but prophetic warnings about ‘Apostasia.’”**

*(“From the Beginning,” Oct 1993 GC, Ensign, Nov. 1993, 18–19).*



## **Elder M. Russell Ballard**

**“Our Heavenly Father loves all of His children, and He wants them all to have the blessings of the gospel in their lives. Spiritual light is not lost because God turns His back on His children. Rather, spiritual darkness results when His children turn their collective backs on Him. It is a natural consequence of bad choices made by individuals, communities, countries, and entire civilizations.”**

*(“Learning the Lessons of the Past,” Apr 2009 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2009, 32)*

## **Martin Luther**

**“I have sought nothing beyond reforming the Church in conformity with the Holy Scriptures. ... I simply say that Christianity has ceased to exist among those who should have preserved it”**

*(in E. G. Schweibert, Luther and His Times: The Reformation from a New Perspective [1950], 590).*

## **Roger Williams**

**“The apostasy ... hath so far corrupted all that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ send forth new apostles to plant churches anew”**

*(in Philip Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom [1877], 851).*





## **Russell M. Nelson**

**“Our living God is a loving God! He wants His children to know Him and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent! And He wants His children to gain immortality and eternal life!**



## Russell M. Nelson

**“For this glorious purpose, our missionaries teach of the Restoration. They know that some 2,000 years ago, the Lord established His Church. After His Crucifixion and the death of His Apostles, men changed the Church and its doctrine. Then, after generations of spiritual darkness, and as predicted by previous prophets, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ restored the Church, its doctrine, and its priesthood authority. Because of that Restoration, knowledge and essential ordinances for salvation and exaltation are again available to all people. Ultimately, that exaltation allows each of us to dwell with our families in the presence of God and Jesus Christ forever!”**

*(“Catch the Wave,” Apr 2013 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2013, 46)*

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**In addition to the “falling away” that would take place, Paul explained that the “man of sin” or “son of perdition” would be revealed prior to the Lord’s Second Coming (2 Thessalonians 2:3). The word perdition is derived from the Latin perditionem, meaning “ruin” or “destruction,” and it is a title given to Lucifer when he was cast out of God’s presence during the premortal life (see D&C 76:26). All those who rebelled with Satan against God during the premortal existence became sons of perdition when they were cast out of God’s presence. Paul also described the “man of sin”—one who “opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The Joseph Smith Translation makes clear that in 2 Thessalonians 2:7–9 Paul was referring to Satan:**

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**“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, and he it is who now worketh, and Christ suffereth him to work, until the time is fulfilled that he shall be taken out of the way.**

**“And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.**

**“Yea, the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until after there cometh a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power, and signs and lying wonders” (in the Bible appendix).**

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**With the Restoration of the gospel and modern scriptures, an accurate understanding of the adversary has been restored.**

**In 2 Thessalonians 2:7, Paul said that “the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” In the New Testament, the word mystery refers to those things that were hidden but have been or will be revealed (see Colossians 1:26). The hidden efforts of Satan to oppose and tear down the Church of God, therefore, will be exposed by God’s servants.**

for you, that our God would count you <sup>a</sup>worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the <sup>a</sup>grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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3 Let no man deceive you by any means: <sup>a</sup>for *that day shall not come*, except there come a <sup>b</sup>falling away first, and that <sup>c</sup>man of <sup>a</sup>sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who <sup>a</sup>opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

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9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all <sup>a</sup>power and <sup>b</sup>signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be <sup>a</sup>damned who <sup>b</sup>believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning <sup>a</sup>chosen you to salvation through <sup>b</sup>sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our <sup>a</sup>gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath <sup>a</sup>loved us, and hath

Pray for Us

given *us* everlasting <sup>b</sup>consolation and good hope through <sup>c</sup>grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

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FINALLY, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord <sup>a</sup>may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from <sup>a</sup>unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

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4 And we have <sup>a</sup>confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

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\* More recent scholarship

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread <sup>a</sup>for nought; but wrought with <sup>b</sup>labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not <sup>a</sup>power, but to make ourselves an <sup>b</sup>ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not <sup>a</sup>work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you <sup>a</sup>disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own <sup>a</sup>bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not <sup>a</sup>weary in well doing.

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17 The salutation of Paul with mine own <sup>a</sup>hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

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In connection with his teachings about the deceptions of Satan, Paul taught that those who refuse to accept truth will eventually lose the opportunity to receive it. Concerning those who “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” Paul said that “God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” This means that God will permit unbelievers to accept false doctrines and thereby forfeit their salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:10–12; see also Jacob 4:14; Alma 12:10–11).

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Paul taught that a Church member who “walketh disorderly” (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11) was not to enjoy full association with the Church. Paul was specifically speaking about people who refused to work and support themselves (see 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12). In our day Church members are encouraged not to associate with “disorderly” people who oppose the truth. **Elder Bruce R. McConkie** explained: “Enemies from within, traitors to the Cause, cultists who pervert the doctrines and practices which lead to salvation, often draw others away with them, and added souls lose their anticipated inheritance in the heavenly kingdom. When cultists and enemies become fixed in their opposition to the Church, and when they seek to convert others to their divisive positions, the course of wisdom is to avoid them, as Paul here directs, and to leave them in the Lord’s hands” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:66; see also the commentary for Matthew 5:29–30).

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