

1 & 2 Thessalonians choral reading

CHARACTERS: Paul (25), Silas (22), Timothy (22), All,

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: about 3 minutes/page

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Acts 17:1-10 (HCSB)

A Short Ministry in Thessalonica

TIMOTHY: Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

SILAS: As usual, Paul went to the synagogue, and reasoned with them from the Scriptures.

TIMOTHY: He explained that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead:

PAUL: This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.

TIMOTHY: Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas,

SILAS: including a great number of the leading women and God-fearing Greeks.

PAUL: But the Jews became jealous, and with some scoundrels from the marketplace,

SILAS: formed a mob, and started a riot in the city.

TIMOTHY: As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea.

Chapter 1

SILAS: A letter from (*indicates PAUL with hand*) Paul, (*uses other hand to indicate SILVANUS*) Silvanus, and me, Timothy

PAUL: To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father

TIMOTHY: and the Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Grace to you and peace.

PAUL: We always thank God for all of you, remembering you constantly in our prayers.

SILAS: We recall your work of faith, labor of love,

TIMOTHY: and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Our gospel did not come to you in word only,

PAUL: but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance

TIMOTHY: In spite of severe persecution, you welcomed the message with joy from the Holy Spirit.

SILAS: As a result, you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

ALL: For the Lord's message rang out from you.

PAUL: You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

ALL: and to wait for His Son from heaven,

PAUL: whom He raised from the dead

ALL: Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Chapters 2-3

PAUL: We have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel

ALL: so we speak, not to please men, but rather God, who examines our hearts.

SILAS: We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children.

C We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God

ALL: but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

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PAUL: Like a father with his own children,

SILAS: we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God

ALL: who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

TIMOTHY: Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you.

ALL: And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone.

TIMOTHY: just as we also do for you.

SILAS: May He make your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father

ALL: at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. Amen.

Chapter 4

PAUL: Brothers, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus

ALL: You must walk and please God.

TIMOTHY: As you are doing.

ALL: do so even more.

PAUL: About brotherly love: You don't need me to write you

ALL: because you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

SILAS: But we encourage you, brothers, to do so even more,

ALL: Seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands

TIMOTHY: and not be dependent on anyone.

Jesus will come again (Chapters 4-5)

ALL: Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

PAUL: God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

ALL: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,

SILAS: with the archangel's voice,

ALL: and with the trumpet of God,

PAUL: The dead in Christ will rise first.

ALL: Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air

TIMOTHY: and so we will always be with the Lord.

ALL: Therefore encourage one another with these words.

PAUL: The Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

ALL: But you, brothers, are not in the dark, for this day to overtake you like a thief.

SILAS: For you are all sons of light and sons of the day.

ALL: We do not belong to the night or the darkness.

TIMOTHY: So then, we must not sleep, like the rest,

PAUL: but we must stay awake and be serious.

ALL: Since we belong to the day, we must be serious

PAUL: and put the armor of faith and love on our chests,

ALL: and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation.

SILAS: We obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

ALL: who died for us, so that we will live together with Him.

TIMOTHY: Therefore encourage one another

ALL: and build each other up as you are already doing.

PAUL: Be at peace among yourselves.

ALL: Warn those who are irresponsible,

TIMOTHY: comfort the discouraged, help the weak,

ALL: be patient with everyone.

SILAS: See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone,

ALL: but always pursue what is good for one another and for all.

PAUL: Rejoice always!

SILAS: Pray constantly.

TIMOTHY: Give thanks in everything,

ALL: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

PAUL: Hold on to what is good.

SILAS: Stay away from every kind of evil.

ALL: May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely.

TIMOTHY: And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless

ALL: for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

SILAS: Brothers, pray for us also.

ALL: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2 Thessalonians (chapters 1-3)

TIMOTHY: A letter from (*indicates PAUL with hand*) Paul, (*uses other hand to indicate SILVANUS*) Silvanus, and me, Timothy

SILAS: To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: Greeting.

ALL: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: We must always thank God for you, brothers.

TIMOTHY: This is right, since your faith is flourishing

ALL: and the love each one of you has for one another is increasing.

PAUL: We always pray for you

ALL: that our God will consider you worthy of His calling.

SILAS: Brothers, stand firm.

ALL: May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father,

SILAS: who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope

ALL: encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word.

TIMOTHY: Finally, brothers, pray for us that the Lord's message may spread rapidly and be honored,

ALL: just as it was with you.

SILAS: Pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men,

ALL: for not all have faith.

TIMOTHY: But the Lord is faithful;

ALL: He will strengthen and guard you from the evil one.

PAUL: May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love

ALL: and Christ's endurance.

PAUL: When we were with you, this is what we commanded you:

ALL: If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat.

SILAS: Brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

ALL: May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.

TIMOTHY: The Lord be with all of you.

ALL: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

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1 Thessalonians

<http://www.quia.com/rr/651910.html>

2 Thessalonians wheel of fortune

<http://www.quia.com/hm/669299.html>