FIRST THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1

1. **Paul, Silvanus** (or: = Silas; D reads: Silbanos), **and Timothy, to the called-out community of the Thessalonians within, and in union with, God our Father, even** (or: and) **[the] Lord Jesus Christ: grace** (or: joyous favor) **and peace** (harmony with the absence of conflict; = shalom [peace and prosperity]) **to you** [other MSS add: from God, our Father and Lord, Jesus Christ (or: God our Father, and {the} Owner, Jesus {the} Anointed].

2. **We are continuously experiencing the well-being of grace in God, and are mindful of the favor of goodness and ease with God, always, which encircles and surrounds all of you** (or: are constantly always expressing gratitude and feeling thankful to and for God concerning you all), **continuously making mention of** (or: remembering and being mindful of) **you folks upon our thinking and speaking towards things being well** (or: prayers) **in regard to**
3. **your incessantly remembering** (or: being mindful, without leaving-off throughout,) **of our Lord Jesus Christ's act** (process, work) **of faith** (trust; loyalty), **wearisome smiting and toil of love, and persistent patient endurance from expectation, in front of our God and Father**

(or: ...upon our prayers, unceasingly mentioning, in the presence of our God and Father, the process of your faith {or: the work which is faith and trust} and love's exhausting toil {or: the hard labor which is love}, and [your] steadfast remaining under our Lord Jesus Christ's expectation {or: the hope and expectation which are our Lord Jesus, [the] Anointed}).

4. **Brothers** (= Fellow believers), **folks having been and still being loved by God, knowing and perceiving your election** (your being picked out; your being arranged, gathered or spoken out of the midst),
5. **how that the message the goodness of our God** (or: our God's good news; the message of ease and well-being, which is God) **was not birthed into you within word only, but rather also within power and ability, even within a set-apart Breath-effect** (or: in union with [the] Holy Spirit; in the midst of [the] Sacred Breath) **and in** (or: by) **much full assurance and satisfaction from having been brought to full measure, according as you have seen and perceived** (or: know; are aware). **Of such sort we were birthed** (produced; brought to be) **among you for your sakes** (because of you folks),
6. **and within much pressure** (or: squeezing; oppression) **you were birthed** (produced, made to be) **imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving** (taking into [your] hands) **the Word** (or: message; idea) **with [the] joy of [the] Breath-effect** (or: from [the] Holy Spirit; or: the Sacred Breath's joy),
7. **so to birth** (or: produce) **you as patterns** (imprints; models) **for all those continuously trusting and believing** (or: being loyal) **within Macedonia and within Achaia.**

8. **You see, from you the Word of the Lord** (or: [Yahweh's or Christ's] message) **has been loudly sounded forth not only within Macedonia and in Achaia, but even within every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to be speaking anything!**
9. **For they themselves are continuously reporting concerning us of what sort an entrance** (or: introduction) **we had toward you, and how you turned about toward God from the idols** (forms; images seen; external appearances) **to continuously be a slave to the living and true** (or: real) **God,**
10. **even to constantly dwell and remain** (or: abide and lodge) **back up again [with] His Son – [living] from out of the heavens!** (or: His Son, whose origin is from the midst of the atmospheres) **– Whom He raised from out of the midst of dead folks, Jesus, the One continuously and progressively drawing** (or: repeatedly dragging) **us to Himself from out of the midst of the repeatedly** (or: periodically; continuously) **coming violent emotion** (inherent fervor; mental disposition of teeming desire; passionate impulse; or: anger; internal teeming & agitation; outburst of rage; wrath).

CHAPTER 2

1. **For you yourselves have perceived** (know; are aware), **brothers** (= fellow members of the Body), **that our entrance** (or: way into; introduction) **toward you has not been birthed** (produced; come to be) **empty** (without contents; = useless or without results),
2. **but rather, after previously experiencing ill treatment and being outraged** (subjected to insolent, riotous, or insulting behavior) **in Philippi, according as you are aware, we spoke freely and boldly – publicly, as is the right of citizens – within, and in union with, our God, [proceeding at once] to utter God's message of goodness** (or: the good news from God; the message of ease and well-being, which is God) **toward you in the midst of much striving** (conflict; arguing; or: within a large stadium or racecourse; or: in much agony of struggle).
3. **You see, our calling alongside to assist** (our admonition and encouragement; our work as paracletes) **[is] not out of wandering** (being led astray; deception), **neither out of uncleanness, nor yet within a bait for entrapping or with guile or craftiness,**
4. **but rather, to the degree that and according as we have been approved by testing under God to be entrusted [with] the message of goodness and well-being, thus we are continuously speaking: not as constantly pleasing to people, but rather [as] to the God [Who is] repeatedly testing our hearts!**
5. **For neither did we at any time come to be flattering in word, according as you are aware, neither within a pretense which comes from greed: God is witness!**
6. **Neither [are we] continuously seeking glory** (or: a reputation) **from among people** (humans) **– neither from you, nor from others – all the while being able [to be] burdensome** (or: as constantly having power in weighty [matters]),

as representatives of Christ (or: emissaries of [the] Anointed One).
7. **But rather, we were birthed babes** (infants; [other MSS: made to become gentle and kind ones]) **within the midst of you folks, as whenever a nursing mother would continuously impart warmth to her own children.**

8. **Thus, continuously being affectionately considerate of you, we were habitually delighted** (thinking it good; well-pleased) **to share** (or: impart) **to you not only God's message of goodness and well-being** [other MSS: the good news which is Christ], **but rather even our own souls** (inner beings and lives), **because you have been birthed** (or: come to be) **beloved ones to us** (or: folks loved by us; or: = very dear to and appreciated by us).
9. **For you are remembering, brothers** (= fellow believers), **our wearisome labor and hardship of toil, continuously working night and day towards not being burdensome** (or: a weight) **upon any of you, [and] after the manner of a herald we proclaimed God's message of goodness** (the message of ease and well-being which is God) **into the midst of** (or: unto) **you folks.**
10. **You and God [are] witnesses how appropriately and loyally** (or: benignly; in accord with universal law), **justly** (or: fairly), **and blamelessly we were caused to be to you** (or: for you folks), **the ones continuously trusting and believing.**
11. **With reference to which you have seen and are aware of how [we treated] each one of you folks, continually calling you alongside to give assistance and relief, exhort or encourage** (perform as a paraclete), **as well as speaking gentle influence and comfort at your side, as a father [to] his own children,**
12. **even continuously giving evidence** (witnessing; confirming by testimony) **unto you folks to be continuously walking about worthily of the God** (= living your lives in a manner equal in value with regard to the God) **[Who is] continuously calling** (or: repeatedly inviting) **you people into His own kingdom** (or: reign; sovereign influence and activity) **and glory** (or: a manifestation which calls forth praise; or: reputation; or: opinion and imagination; or: = manifest presence).

13. **And so, on account of this, we also continuously give thanks to God** (or: affirm the goodness of the grace and favor in God) **by an unvarying practice** (or: unintermittingly), **because in receiving** (or: taking to [your] side; accepting) **a word or message – the source of which is hearing from us – you receive from God. You welcomingly accepted not a word of people** (or: a human message), **but rather, according as it truly is, a word of God** (God's message; a thought which is God), **Which** (or: Who) **also** (or: even) **is continuously in-working** (being active; operating; energizing) **within you folks – those continuously trusting and believing.**
14. **For you, brothers** (= fellow believers), **were birthed** (or: were made to be) **imitators of God's called-out folks** (or: communities) **– the ones within Christ being** (or: existing) **in Judea – because you also at one point experienced** (or: suffered) **the very same things by** (or: under) **your own fellow-tribesmen,**

just as they also [did] by (or: under) **the Jews,**
15. **even from those killing-off the Lord Jesus, as well as the prophets; even from those driving us out and continuously displeasing God, and from folks contrary to** (or: in opposition against) **all humanity** (or: people),
16. **while continuously forbidding us** (cutting us off; preventing us) **to speak to the nations** (the ethnic groups; the non-Israelite multitudes; the Gentiles) **– to the end that they may be delivered** (saved; rescued; healed and made whole) **– always [proceeding] unto that which fills up their own failures** (errors; deviations; sins)**! But inherent fervor** (or: swelling passion; teeming desire; or: anger; wrath; agitation of soul) **advanced upon them unto a purpose** (or: on into [the] final act; or: in the end).

17. **Now we, brothers, being deprived** (or: orphaned; bereaved; torn-away) **from you for a fitting situation of an hour** (or: for an hour's season; = for a short spell, during a specific situation) **– by face** (= in presence), **not by or in heart – we more exceedingly made diligent haste to see your face, in much full desire!**
18. **On that account we intended** (purposed, willed) **to come toward you – indeed I, Paul, once, even twice – and the adversary** (or: satan) **struck within us** (cut in on us; = cut across our path; or: travailed and wearily toiled among us).
19. **For who** (or: what) **is our expectation** (or: hope) **or joy, or shall be a crown** (victor's wreath; encirclement) **of boasting** (or: glorying) **in front of our Lord Jesus, in His presence** (or: in the place facing toward our Master, Jesus, within the midst of His being present alongside [us]), **if not even you folks?**
20. **For you see, you yourselves are our glory** (or: our reputation; our manifestation which calls forth praise) **and joy!**

CHAPTER 3

1. **Wherefore** (or: For this reason), **no longer keeping a lid on [our desires]** (or: bearing it no longer), **we thought it a good idea to be left down alone in Athens,**
2. **and then sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow-worker in Christ's message of ease and goodness, to perhaps set you firmly** (make you stable) **and possibly call you alongside** (to aid, encourage, exhort, console and give relief) **over the [situation] of your trust and faith** (or: loyalty),
3. **that no one be continuously wagged as a tail** (= shaken or agitated) **within these pressures** (contractions, constrictions; oppressions), **for you yourselves have seen and are aware that we are continually laid into** (= repeatedly destined and set for) **this!**

4. **You see, even when we were with you we were predicting** (telling beforehand) **to you that, "we are about to be continuously pressed** (or: squeezed),**" just as it was even birthed** (or: also came to be), **and you have seen and know.**

5. **On account of this I also, no longer keeping a lid on [my desires]** (= when I could bear it no longer), **sent to find out about your faith, trust and loyalty, lest** (or: in case) **somehow the One continuously putting [folks] to the proof** (or: the trier**;** [note: this could refer to God, or to one of His instruments]) **put you to the proof** (tried or tested you), **and our wearisome labor** (striking, cutting, travail) **may be birthed into a void** (or: come to be [entered] into an empty place; or: exist in vain; = be to no purpose).
6. **Yet at the present moment, Timothy, upon coming to us from you and announcing the good news to us of your faith and love, [said] that you always continuously hold** (or: have) **a good remembrance of us, continuously having strong desire to see us – even as we also you!**
7. **On account of this, brothers** (= folks who are as family), **on [the occasions of] all our choking necessity and pressure, through the ministry of a paraclete** (or: the Paraclete) **we were comforted and encouraged about your faith, trust and loyalty,**
8. **so that now we can be living, since you continue standing in** (and: in union with) **the Lord.**
9. **For now, what gratitude** (or: expression of the goodness of grace and favor) **we continue able to give back to God in return – concerning you folks, upon [the occasion of] all the joy for which** (or: in which) **we are continually rejoicing because of you – before** (or: in front of; in the place facing toward and in the presence of) **our God,**
10. **while night and day, over-excessively repeatedly begging regarding our need to see your face** (= to see you face to face), **and then to freshly adjust to correspondence** (or: thoroughly equip, fit, knit together, mend and bring into agreement) **the things lacking** (the shortcomings or deficiencies) **of your faith!**
11**. But our God and Father Himself, even our Lord Jesus, might suddenly make** [note: verb is 3rd person singular; = He might guide] **our road** (path; way) **straight toward** (or: to) **you.**

12. **Now the Lord** [=Yahweh or Christ] **might at some point make you increase** (or: be more than enough; be augmented; [note: in quality and/or quantity]), **even to be abundantly furnished** (to super-abound) **by love** (or: to love; for love; in love) **into each other and into everyone** (or: all mankind), **even as we also into you,**
13. **to establish** (fix; set fast) **your hearts blameless and without defect** (or: to make stable your unblamable hearts) **in separateness** (or: holiness) **in front of our God and Father, within the presence of our Lord Jesus with all His set-apart folks** (holy ones; separated ones).

CHAPTER 4

1. **The remainder** (What is left; or: Finally), **then, brothers** (= fellow believers), **we are continuously asking and calling you alongside to encourage, exhort and comfort you folks in the Lord Jesus, according as you took to your**

side (or: received) **from us how** (or: in what manner) **it is binding [for; upon] you to normally walk about** (= live your lives) **and to be continuously pleasing to God – just as you are even now continuously walking about – to the end that you may continuously be abundant** (to have all around; to exist in full quantity) **to a greater extent.**
2. **For you have seen and are aware what instructions** (messages alongside) **we gave to you through the Lord Jesus.**
3. **You see, this is the will** (intent, purpose) **of God: your state of being set apart from the common use or condition** (or: holiness; sacredness) **– you are to continuously hold yourself from** (be distant from; abstain from) **all of the prostitution** [note: figuratively the worship of idols or false religions].
4. **Each one of you [is] to have seen and thus learned how and be aware of his own equipment** (gear; utensils; instruments; vessel; = means of making a living), **to progressively acquire** (procure for one's self) **in set-apartness** (or: holiness) **and honor** (value, worth),
5. **not in a feeling of excessive desire** (or: in union with an experience of full-rushing passion), **just as also the nations** (ethnic multitudes; non-Israelites) **[do] who, having not perceived, do not know** (aren't aware of; aren't acquainted with) **God.**
6. **Thus, no one is to be continuously overstepping and have more** (hold advantage) **in his brother's affair** (doing; transaction; matter; = cheat his fellow believers in business dealings), **because [the] Lord** [= Yahweh or Christ] **[is] a maintainer of right** (an executor of justice) **concerning all these things, according as we also said to you before and gave witness** (testimony) **throughout**.
7. **For God did not call us on the basis of uncleanness** (or: does not invite us [to be] on [a path lived in] a soiled condition or a dirty environment), **but rather within the sphere of set-apartness** (or: holiness; sacredness).
8. **Consequently, then, the person continuously setting aside** (or: displacing) **is not setting aside** (or: does not displace) **a human, but God, even the One continuously giving His Sacred Breath into us** (or: repeatedly imparting His Spirit, the Holy One, unto us; constantly gifting His set-apart Breath-effect [to flow] into us).

9. **Now concerning loving one like a brother** (or: brotherly love; = fondness for fellow believers), **we have no need to continually write to you, for you yourselves are folks continuously taught by God** (God-taught ones) **to continuously love each other,**
10. **for you are even continuously doing this unto all of those brothers within the whole of Macedonia. But we are constantly calling you alongside** (to encourage, urge, exhort and comfort you), **brothers, to continuously be abundant** (or: to have [it] in full quantity) **to a greater extent** (= to overflow in it even more),
11. **and then to habitually be fond of honor and value [and] to be repeatedly quiet** (or: to be progressively ambitious to live in settled peace), **and by habit to be engaged** (or: involved) **in your own affairs** (or: matters), **and**

then to constantly work with your own hands (idiom: = work at it actively), **according as we commanded to you,**
12. **to the intent that you may continuously walk about in good form** (= live your life respectably) **toward those without** (with a view to outsiders; = face to face with those not a part of your community), **and then you would continually have need of nothing.**
13. **Yet we are not wanting** (or: willing, intending) **you to continue ignorant, brothers, concerning the folks who are from time to time falling asleep** [other MSS: those having been put to sleep (= passed away; died), and continuing made to be sleeping], **to the intent that you may not continuously be made to be sad or sorrowful according as even** (or: just like also) **the rest** (the ones remaining or left), **the folks continuously having no expectation** (or: hope).
14. **For you see, if we habitually believe that Jesus died and arose** (or: stood up again), **thus** (in this manner) **also, through Jesus, God will be leading together, with Him, the folks being made to sleep**.
15. **For this we are continuously saying to you in a word of the Lord** (or: in the Lord's Word; in a message which is [the] Lord), **that we, the living** (or: the ones continuing to live) **– the folks continuing to be left around unto the presence of the Lord** (or: into the midst of the Lord's presence) **– can by no means advance before** (precede; have advantage over; outstrip) **the folks being made to sleep,**
16. **because the Lord** [= Yahweh or Christ] **Himself will descend from [the] atmosphere** (or: heaven) **within** (or: in union with) **a shout of command, within the midst of [the] Chief Agent's** (or: an original messenger's; or: a chief and ruling agent's; or: [the] beginning messenger's) **voice, and within** (or: in union with) **God's trumpet** [note: figure of a message or a directive for action], **and the dead people within Christ** (or: in union with [the] Anointed One) **will raise themselves up** (or: will stand up again) **first** (or: in first place).
17. **Thereupon** (or: After that; As a next step) **we, the living folks, the ones continuing to be left around, will at the same time be seized and snatched away** (carried off by force) **into the midst of air – together with them within clouds – into the Lord's meeting** ([Christ's or Yahweh's] encounter). **And thus** (in this way) **shall we always be** (or: exist at all times) **together with [the] Lord** [= Christ or Yahweh].
18. **So that** (or: Consequently) **you must constantly call each other alongside** (to give relief, encouragement and comfort; to be a paraclete) **within these words** (or: thoughts; reasons).

CHAPTER 5

1. **But concerning the times and the fitting situations** (or: specific seasons or occasions), **brothers** (= fellow believers), **you have no need [for it] to be continually written to you,**
2. **for you yourselves are accurately aware** (know exactly from having seen) **that a day of the Lord** [= Yahweh] **thus continually comes** (is habitually and

repeatedly coming; is presently coming) **as a thief in a night** (or: within [the] night).

[comment: the day of Yahweh was a term that figured a time of judging and hard times, in the Old Testament; e.g., *cf* Joel 1:15 and 2:1-2; Jer. 30:7; Amos 5:18; Zeph. 1:14-18]

3. **So whenever they may be repeatedly saying, "Peace and security from falling** (or: safety; stability),**" then** (at that time) **sudden and unexpected ruin** (or: a surprise of destruction) **is presently standing upon them, just as the birth-pang for the pregnant woman** (or: to the one having [a child] in the womb), **and they may by no means flee out or make an escape.**

4. **Yet you yourselves, brothers** (= believers), **are not continuously in darkness, to the end that the day may** (or: would) **suddenly take you down** (grasp or seize you in a corresponding manner) **as a thief,**

5. **for you see, you all are** (or: exist being) **sons of** (= associated with and having the qualities of) **Light and sons of** (= associated with and having qualities of) **Day! We are not** (or: do not exist) **of night, nor of darkness** (or: we do not belong to or have the characteristics of night, nor to or of darkness).

6. **Consequently, then, we may not continuously fall asleep [into death? in awareness?] even as the rest** (= as other folks), **but rather, we can and should continuously be aroused and stirred up from sleep** [thus, awake to be alertly watchful; also a figure for being alive] **and sober** (or: clear-headed).

7. **You see, the folks continuously falling asleep** (or: drowsing) **are sleeping at** (or: from [the]) **night, and the ones continuously being made drunk are becoming drunk at** (or: from [the]) **night.**

8. **We, on the other hand, being of Day** (belonging to and having characteristics of [the] Day; having [the] Day as our source), **can and should continuously be sober** (clear-headed), **putting on** (or: clothing ourselves with; enveloping ourselves in; entering within) **a breastplate** (or: thorax) **of faith and love** (or: which is and is composed of faith and love; = have trust & love as body armor) **and, as a helmet, an expectation** (or: hope) **of deliverance** (health and wholeness; rescue and salvation; restoration to our original state and condition),

9. **because God Himself did not** (or: does not) **place** (or: set) **us into anger** (inherent fervor; violent emotion; wrath; or: teeming, passionate desire), **but rather, into an encompassing of deliverance** (unto establishing a perimeter of safety; into making health and wholeness encircle [us]; into the forming of an encompassing salvation around [us]) **through our Lord, Jesus Christ –**

10. **the One dying concerning and on behalf of us** (or: = while encompassing our [situation] [other MSS: over our [situation]), **to the end that whether we can or would exist being continuously awake** (attentively watching) **or continuously falling asleep** [note: a metaphor for "being alive or being dead"], **we can at the same time be alive** (or: live) **together with Him** (= share His life).

11. **Wherefore, keep on calling each other to [your] side** (to encourage, aid, urge, comfort or exhort), **and by habit let one person build up** (or: edify) **the [other] person** (= a one-on-one endeavor), **just as you are even continuously doing.**

12. **Now we are continuously asking you, brothers** (= fellow-believers), **to have seen** (or: observed) **and thus know and perceive those normally toiling wearily among you folks and continuously making themselves to stand before you** (placing or setting themselves before you; or: presiding over you) **and then continuously putting [their] mind in you** (or: putting you in mind; or: admonishing you) **in [the] Lord,**
13. **and to continuously lead them above, from out of an abundance in love** (or: lead the mind through a reasoning process to the conclusion to consider them exceedingly distinguished, in union with love) **because of their work. Keep on being at peace** (or: cultivate harmony [= shalom]) **among yourselves.**
14. **But we are continually calling you to [our] side** (to encourage, entreat and admonish), **brothers: continually admonish and warn** (put a mind into; or: put in mind) **the disorderly ones** (the unarranged; those out of line; those not in battle position or deserters); **continually address** (speak alongside persuasively to and cheer up) **the little-souled folks** (the small of soul; = the faint-hearted); **continually hold yourselves directly opposite** (or: hold against one's self; or: = stand your ground as a shield in front of) **the folks without strength** (the weak ones); **continually be longsuffering and tolerant** (patient; long-passioned; long before breathing violently) **toward everyone** (or: all mankind).
15. **Make it a habit to see** (or: observe) **[that] no one may** (or: would) **give back** (render, discharge, repay) **evil in place of evil** (or: something ugly as opposition to something ugly; worthlessness in exchange for worthlessness; what not ought to be in return for what not ought to be; poor quality for poor quality; wrongdoing with wrongdoing; injury in the face of injury) **to anyone, but to the contrary, continue to always pursue** (follow rapidly; run swiftly to acquire; chase after) **the good** (the excellent; the virtuous) **unto [the benefit of] each other as well as unto all people.**
16. **Be continuously rejoicing – always** (or: = Find joy in every [situation]; Always express constant joy)**!**
17. **Continuously think and speak with a view toward well-being and goodness – unceasingly** (or: By habit be praying unintermittingly).
18. **Within the midst of everything** (or: In union with all people) **be continuously giving thanks** (or: expressing the goodness of grace and the well-being from favor), **for this is God's intent** (will, purpose) **unto you in Christ Jesus** (or: [proceeding] into the midst of you folks, in union with [the] Anointed Jesus).
19. **Do not continually extinguish** (put out; quench) **the Breath-effect** (or: Spirit).
20. **Do not continually make nothing out of** (set at naught, despise or scorn) **prophecies** (expressions of light ahead of time),
21. **but be continuously examining and putting all things to the proof** (or: yet habitually test all people) **– [then] constantly hold tightly to the beautiful, the ideal, the fine!**
22. **Habitually hold yourself away** (or: abstain) **from every form** (external appearance; shape; figure) **of what is useless and unprofitable, or brings**

wearisome labor, or is mischievous, malicious, harmful or disadvantageous (or: from evil's every form).

23. **Now may the God of peace Himself** (or: Yet the very God who is peace and harmony [= shalom] can) **set you folks apart [being] completely whole** (or: wholly perfect; entirely mature; wholly finished and at the goal), **and may your whole allotment** (= every part) **– the spirit, the soul and the body – be kept** (guarded; watched over) **blameless** (without fault) **within, and in union with, the presence of our Lord** (Master; Owner), **Jesus Christ.**
24. **The One continuously calling you is faithful** (trustworthy; loyal; full of faith and trust), **Who will also perform** (do, make, form, construct, create)**!**
25. **Brothers** (= Fellow believers), **you must also continuously pray** (think and speak with a view to ease and well-being) **concerning us.**
26. **Draw to yourselves and enfold in your arms all the brothers** (= fellow believers) **in a set-apart expression of affection** (a holy kiss).
27. **I adjure** (lay the duty on) **you folks [in; by] the Lord [that] this letter** (or: epistle) **be read to** (be made known again for; be recognized by) **all the set-apart brothers** (the sanctified [fellow believers]).
28. **The grace of and from our Lord** (or: the favor which is our Lord), **Jesus Christ, [is] with you.**
Amen (Count on it; It is so)**!**

[written circa A.D. 50 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]