Paul’s Second Epistle to the Thessalonians

A New Rendition

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BYU Studies
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About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary, a project by a group of Latter-day Saint specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to Latter-day Saint general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of Latter-day Saint scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers.

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these features
distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefitted from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisors, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling this a new “rendition” clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the New Rendition in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”
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**Paul’s Second Epistle to the Thessalonians**

**Salutation (1:1–2)**

1:1 Paul, Silas, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**God Will Repay the Afflicted (1:3–10)**

3 We ought to always thank God for you, brothers and sisters, as is fitting, because your faith flourishes and the love of each one of you for each other increases. 4 Consequently, we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in all your persecutions and afflictions that you endure. 5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God that you are considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering, 6 since it is just for God to repay those who oppress you with afflictions 7 and give relief, together with us, to you who suffer in the revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 with flaming fire that punishes those who do not know God and who are not obedient to the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will pay the penalty of eternal death, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power 10 whenever he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be greatly admired in that day by all those who have believed (because you believed our testimony).

**Paul’s Sincere Prayer (1:11–12)**

11 For this reason, we also constantly pray for you that our God might find you worthy of this calling and fulfill, by his power, every desire for goodness and work of faith 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus might be glorified by you, and you by him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
The Great Rebellion (2:1–12)

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to meet him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to be too easily shaken in mind or be troubled by any spirit or assertion or letter supposedly from us implying that the day of the Lord has happened. 3 Do not let anyone deceive you in any way because [that day will not come] unless the Apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness, even the son of perdition, is revealed. 4 He is the one who opposes and exalts himself over every so-called god or object of worship in order to sit down in the temple of God proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Don’t you remember that when I was still with you, I kept telling you these things? 6 And you already know what holds him back so that he will be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but only until he who now restrains it is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the appearance of his glory, 9 whose coming is through Satan’s action with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders 10 and with every sort of unrighteous deception directed toward those who are perishing because they were not open to the love of truth that they might be saved. 11 For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe in the lie 12 so that all of them will be judged who did not believe the truth but found delight in unrighteousness.

Chosen for Salvation (2:13–17)

13 But we ought to always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters who are loved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through faith in truth, 14 to which he called you through our preaching of the gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions in which you have been instructed, either by word or by our letters. 16 And may our Lord himself, Jesus Christ, and God, our Father, who has loved us and by grace has given us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 comfort your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.
Pray for Us (3:1–5)

1 Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may move forward and be honored, even as it is among you. 2 And also that we may be delivered from those wicked and evil people, for not all people have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen you and protect you from evil. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you that you are doing and will do what we command you to do. 5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the patient endurance of Christ.

A Warning against Irresponsibility (3:6–15)

6 Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from any brother or sister who behaves irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to emulate us because we did not behave irresponsibly among you 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying, but we labored night and day with toil and hardship so that we would not be a burden to any one of you. 9 Not because we do not have that right but to give ourselves as an example for you to emulate. 10 And indeed, when we were with you, we commanded that if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you are behaving irresponsibly, not doing any work but being busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to quietly work and eat their own bread. 13 But you, brothers and sisters, do not be discouraged in doing good. 14 But if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of him and do not associate with him so he will be put to shame. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy but admonish him as a brother.

The Benediction (3:16–18)

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself grant you peace always in every way. May the Lord be with all of you. 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, which is the mark of genuineness in every letter I write. 18 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.