

The 2 letters that Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica

**1 & 2 Thessalonians
from the Holy Bible**

Plain English Version

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(Plain English Version)

Translated for speakers of Australian Indigenous languages

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The 1st letter that Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica

(The book in the Holy Bible called 1 Thessalonians)

About this letter

Paul wrote this letter about 2,000 years ago, about 20 years after Jesus went back to heaven, and it is now in the Holy Bible.

God sent Paul to lots of countries and lots of towns to tell people about Jesus. One of those towns was Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-9). It was a big town in the country called Greece, where the Greek people come from, and it is still there today. Sometimes people now call that town Salonica.

When Paul went to Thessalonica some people believed in Jesus and became Christians, but others didn't like what he was saying, and they made trouble for him. So he could not stay there very long. Soon after that he sent his friend Timothy back to Thessalonica to find out how those new Christians were going, and to help them be strong for Jesus. After Timothy came back and told him how they were going, Paul wrote them this letter. Paul's 2 friends, Silas and Timothy, they helped him write this letter. This was the 1st letter that Paul wrote to them. He wrote them another letter about 6 months later.

In this letter Paul wrote about the time when Jesus will come back from heaven, and he said other important things too.

So today we have to take notice of what Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica.



This is what Thessalonica town looks like now

Chapter 1

¹I am Paul, and this letter is from me. Silas and Timothy are here with me, and they are helping me write this letter.

We are sending this letter to you Christians that are in God's church, in the town called Thessalonica. You belong to God our father and to Jesus Christ our leader.

We are asking God and Jesus to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.*

* 1:1 Acts 17:1

People at Thessalonica properly believed in Jesus

²We pray for you mob all the time, and we always thank God for you. ³Whenever we talk about you to God, our father, we remember the good things that you do. You properly believe in Jesus Christ, and you love him very much, so you do those good things. And you love other people too, so you work hard to help them. You are really sure that our leader, Jesus Christ, will come back for you, so you keep on following him, no matter what other people do to you.

⁴Christian friends, we know that God loves you, and he picked you to be his own people. ⁵Remember the time when we told you the good news about Jesus. We told you the message with our words, but the Holy Spirit made us sure that we were telling the true story, and he gave us his power to show you that God was with us. And remember the sort of people we were at the time when we were with you there. We showed you the good way to live. ⁶So you changed the way you live, and you lived the same way that we lived, like the way that Jesus, our leader, lived. You believed the message about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit made you really happy. Other people gave you a lot of trouble, but you were happy anyway. ^{*}
⁷You showed all the other Christians there in Macedonia country the right way to live. And you did that too for the Christians in the country to the south of you, called Akaya.

* 1:6 Acts 17:5-9

⁸⁻⁹And now people in lots of places have heard about Jesus. You see, other people told them about you. They told them that you listened to us when we came to your town, and that you turned away from the gods that are not real, and that now you only work for the true God, the one that is properly alive. And it's not only the people in Macedonia and Akaya that have heard that story. Everywhere we go we find people that tell us about you, so we know that story has gone around to lots of places. We don't have to tell anyone about you. They have already heard the story. ¹⁰And they say that you are waiting for God's son to come back from heaven. His son is Jesus. Jesus died, but God made him alive again. And you know, God will judge everybody one day. Everybody has done bad things, and that makes God angry. But Jesus will save his people, so God will not be angry with you, and he will not be angry with us.

Chapter 2

Paul asked the Christians at Thessalonica to remember the time he visited them

¹Christian friends, you know that it was good that we went to your town and told you God's message. It wasn't a waste of our time, because you believed that message.

²And you know that before we came to you, we told God's message to the people in Philippi. Some of those Philippi people got really cheeky to us, and they beat us up. After that, we came to your town, and God made us brave, so

we told God's message to you too. We didn't get frightened of the cheeky people that tried to stop us. * ³You see, we only told you true things. We told you the good news so that you can believe God's message. We were not trying to trick you. We were not trying to get you to believe things that are not true. ⁴No way. You see, it was God that sent us. He knew us, and he trusted us to tell people his message. So we only say what he wants us to say. We don't try to make people happy. We only try to make God happy. ⁵And when we talked to you, we didn't say nice things about you, so that you will like us. We didn't make a secret plan to get you to give us things. God knows that. ⁶And we didn't try to get anyone to say good things about us. We didn't want you or anyone else to do that.

⁷God made us Jesus's special workers, and he sent us to you. But we didn't say, "We are Jesus's special workers, so we are your bosses, and you have to do what we say." No, we didn't talk like that. We were like little kids with you. We talked easy to you. We were good to you, like a mother taking care of her kids. ⁸We loved you so much that we told you the good news about Jesus. And more than that, we were ready to do anything to help you.

⁹Christian friends, remember what we did when we were there with you. We worked to get money, and while we did that, we told you the good news from God. We worked a lot to get enough money to look after ourselves. We didn't only work in the day time, but we worked at night time too.

* 2:2 Acts 16:19-24; 17:1-9

So you didn't have to give us anything. ¹⁰While we were with you mob, we only did things that made God happy. We did things that are good and right. You know that, and God knows it too. ¹¹And you know that we treated each one of you the same way a father treats his own kids. ¹²We taught you, and we helped you to be brave and strong. And we told you very strongly to do things that make God happy. You see, God is the one that picked you to be in his own family, and you will be really great with him.

People at Thessalonica believed God's message

¹³And we always thank God for the way you listened to us. We told you God's message, and you knew that it wasn't only a message from people. You believed that we told you words from God, and that it was God's message. And you were right. It is God's word. And now that you believe that word, it helps you grow strong for him.

¹⁴And, Christian friends, your countrymen gave you a lot of trouble after you believed in Jesus. You know, the same thing happened to the Christians in the churches in Judea country. They believed in Jesus, and their Jewish countrymen gave them a lot of trouble too. * ¹⁵That Jewish mob didn't want to believe God, and they made trouble for Jesus. You see, a long time ago, it was the Jewish mob that killed the men that told God's messages, and it was the Jewish mob that killed our leader Jesus too. And it was the same for us. Wherever we told

* 2:14 Acts 17:5

people about Jesus, the Jewish mob chased us out of those places. They make God angry. They work against everyone.* ¹⁶They try to stop us telling everyone that God can save people that are not Jewish. That Jewish mob did a lot of bad things in the past, and they are also doing those bad things now, so they make God angry, and he is going to punish them.

Paul wanted to go back and visit the Thessalonica people

¹⁷Look, Christian friends, we never wanted to leave you mob, but we had to. But it was only for a little while, and we kept on thinking about you, and we really wanted to go back to you. ¹⁸I, Paul, tried to go back lots of times, but Satan, the boss over the bad spirits, he stopped me every time. ¹⁹⁻²⁰Listen. One day our leader, Jesus, will come back, and he will ask us about the things we did. Then we will tell him about how we got you mob to trust him. And you will be there with us on that day, so we will be really happy. We are like athletes that run in a race and win the prize, because after Jesus comes back, he will tell us that we did a good job with you, and that will be like a prize for us.

Chapter 3

Paul sent Timothy to the Christians at Thessalonica

¹⁻²But back at the time just after we left you, we worried about you for a while. We didn't know if you kept on

* 2:15 Acts 9:23, 29; 13:45, 50; 14:2, 5, 19; 17:5, 13; 18:12

trusting Jesus or not. We tried to go back to find out about you, but we couldn't do it. And we couldn't wait to get some news about you. So we reckoned, "We'll send Timothy by himself, and we'll stay here in this city called Athens and wait for him to come back." Timothy is like our brother. He works with us for God, telling people the good news about Jesus Christ.

We sent Timothy to you so that he could help you to be strong and to trust Jesus better. ³We knew that people would give you trouble, and we didn't want any of you to stop following Jesus. You yourselves know that you get trouble for following Jesus. ⁴This is what we told you when we were still with you, we said, "Some people will give you trouble." And soon that happened, just like we said.

⁵And I really worried about you. I thought, "You Christians in Thessalonica are very new Christians. Maybe the boss over the bad spirits gave you too much trouble. Maybe he tricked you, so that you don't trust Jesus any more. Maybe we worked for nothing there in Thessalonica." That's what I was thinking, but I didn't really know the true story. And when I couldn't wait any longer, I had to send Timothy to find out the true story about you.

Timothy came back with good news

⁶And now Timothy has just come back to us, and he brought us good news about you. He told us that you still believe in Jesus Christ, and you still love God, and you still love other people. He said that every time you

remember us, it makes you happy, and you want to see us again, just as much as we want to see you again. That is the story Timothy told us.* ⁷We heard that news about you, our Christian friends, and we were very happy. After we heard it, we got braver and stronger for God. It doesn't matter to us if people give us trouble and hit us. You still trust Jesus, so we are happy. ⁸We heard that you strongly believe in our leader, Jesus, and now we feel properly alive again. ⁹You make us so happy that we pray to God and thank him for you. We can't thank him enough. ¹⁰We are always praying to God, both in the day time and at night time, and we are strongly asking him to let us visit you again. There are still some things we need to tell you about Jesus so that you can trust him even more.

Paul wanted God to help the Christians at Thessalonica

¹¹Yes, we want God, our father, and Jesus, our leader, to help us come to you. ¹²And we want Jesus to get you to love each other and to love other people, even more than you do now. We want you to love people just as much as we love you. ¹³We want Jesus to make you properly good and clean inside. You see, one day Jesus, our leader, will come back, and all his people will be with him. And then we will all meet God our father, and God will see that we are properly good and clean inside, so he will be happy with us, and he will not have to blame us for doing anything wrong.

* 3:6 Acts 18:5

Chapter 4

God wants Christians to live the right way

¹There is one more thing we want to tell you, our Christian friends. You know, we taught you about the right way to live, to make God happy. And you have been living that way. That's good. But we want you to live like that even more. ²You know the things that we told you to do. Our leader, Jesus, got us to tell you those things.

³This is what God wants. He wants you to be properly good and to keep away from everything that is wrong. If somebody is not your own wife or husband, don't sleep with them as if you are married to them. ⁴Every one of you has to learn how to control your own body in a way that is clean and good. ⁵Don't be like people that don't know God. They just want to sleep with anybody and do the wrong thing with them. That is what they want to do, and they are always thinking about it. They don't try to stop themselves. Don't be like that. ⁶None of you men can ever sleep with a woman that is not your own wife. If you do that, you are doing a bad thing to her husband. He is the only person that can sleep with her, so don't cheat him out of that. Don't do that bad thing to another Christian, or to anyone else. God is the one that will punish you if you do that. We told you about that when we were with you, and we mean it. ⁷God picked us to be his people, but he didn't pick us to be people that do bad and dirty things, like sleeping with somebody else's wife or husband. He picked us to be people that keep away

from everything that is bad. ⁸That rule doesn't come from people, it comes from God. So anyone that doesn't listen to that rule, is not listening to God. And remember, God is the one that gives you his Holy Spirit, and his spirit is really good.

⁹I don't need to write to you about how you have to love other Christians. God himself taught you to love each other. ¹⁰Yes, you love all the Christians in every place in your country, called Macedonia. But we ask you strongly, friends, to love each other more and more.

¹¹Try to live the way we told you to when we were with you. Try to live in a quiet way, and don't make any trouble for anyone. Don't mess up the things that other people are doing, or try to boss them around. And don't be lazy, but work to get enough money to buy whatever you need. ¹²Then you will not have to ask other people for things. If you live like that, the people that don't know God will see that you are good, and they will respect you.

Christians will go up to meet Jesus while he is coming back

¹³Christian friends, we are going to tell you now about people that have already died. We don't want you to be sad when you think about them. Other people, that don't believe in Jesus, they don't know what will happen to them after they die. So when their friends die, they get really sad. But if our Christian friends die, we don't have to be really sad like those other people. Listen, we want you to understand this properly. ¹⁴You see, we believe that Jesus died, and after that, God made him alive again.

So we also believe that when Jesus comes back to this earth, all the Christians that already died will come back with him. Jesus will bring them all back with him. ¹⁵You see, this is the message that Jesus, our leader, told us, and we tell this same message to you. Those of us that are still alive when Jesus comes back, we will not go and meet him before the Christians that already died. ¹⁶It will happen like this. Our leader, Jesus himself, will come down from heaven, and while he is coming, everyone will hear him call out, and they will hear the voice of the boss angel, and they will hear the sound of God's trumpet. Then, first of all, those people that belonged to Jesus Christ and already died, they will come back to life. ¹⁷After that, God will get those of us Christians that are still alive at that time, and he will take us up into the clouds with the Christians that already died, and we will all meet Jesus, our leader, way up in the air. And so, after that, we will be with Jesus all the time, for ever.* ¹⁸So think about this message, and talk to each other about it, and help each other to stay strong, so that you are not sad when your Christian friends die.

Chapter 5

Christians have to be ready for Jesus to come back

¹And now, Christian friends, think about the time when Jesus will come back. We don't need to write to you

* 4:15-17 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

about times and dates. ²You already know about that day when our leader, Jesus, will come back. You know it will come suddenly, and people will get a big shock. They will not be ready for it, like nobody is ready for a robber to come in the night to steal things.* ³You know, people will be saying, “We are safe. There’s no trouble here.” But then that big trouble will come really quickly, and they will not be ready for it. God will use that big trouble to punish them. It will be like what happens when a woman has a baby, she suddenly gets pain, and then her baby starts to come, and nobody can stop it. That big trouble will be just like that. It will come to people suddenly, and they will not get away from it.

⁴But, Christian friends, you aren’t like other people that don’t listen to what God says. It is like they are living in the dark all the time. When that trouble day comes, you will not get a shock, like people do when a robber comes to steal their things at night. ⁵You listen to what God says. It’s like you belong to the light, and you belong to the day time. You aren’t people that belong to the night time or the dark. ⁶So don’t be like other people that aren’t ready for Jesus to come back, like they are asleep. Instead, you have to think properly about what is happening, like people that are awake. ⁷You know, night time is the time when people go to sleep, or maybe they get drunk, so they can’t think properly. ⁸But we belong to the day time, so we have to think properly. We have

* 5:2 Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39; 2 Peter 3:10

to keep on loving God and trusting him to save us. When we do that, it will make us strong for God, like when soldiers put on special clothes made out of iron, to stop the enemy from hurting them.*

⁹⁻¹⁰You see, God picked us to save us, not to get angry with us. Our leader, Jesus Christ, died for us, so now God can save us and give us new life. After Jesus comes back, we will live with him for ever. Maybe we will die before he comes, or maybe we will still be alive. It will not matter, because God will give us all new life, and we will all live with Jesus for ever. ¹¹So then, tell those things to each other, and help each other to become stronger for God, not sad and weak. And yes, I know that you are doing that already.

Some things to do and some things not to do

¹²Now, Christian friends, here are a few more things we really want you to do.

- Respect the people among you that work hard for God. They lead you, his people, and teach you how to live the right way. ¹³They work for God, so respect them, and love them a lot.
- And don't argue with each other.
- ¹⁴And the next thing, friends, tell lazy people that they have to work.
- And if somebody is frightened, talk to them in a way that helps them to be brave.

* 5:8 Isaiah 59:17; Ephesians 6:13-17

- And help anybody that is weak.
- And don't get angry with anyone, keep on trying to help them.
- ¹⁵If somebody does something bad to you, don't try to do payback to them, but always try to be good to each other and to everyone else too.

¹⁶And we want you to do these things too.

- Always be happy.
- ¹⁷Be ready to pray to God at any time.
- ¹⁸Always thank God, no matter what happens to you.

You see, you belong to Jesus Christ, so God wants you to do those things. ¹⁹And we want you to do some more things too.

- Don't stop God's spirit working in you.
- ²⁰Don't rubbish God's messages, ²¹but listen carefully when anyone tells you a message from God. Think carefully about everything they say, and find out if it really comes from God. Then, if it is right, be careful to remember it and to do those good things. ²²But if it is wrong, or if it tells you to do a bad thing, don't do it. Keep away from every sort of bad thing, and don't listen to messages that don't come from God.

The end of this letter

²³God is the one that helps people to be happy and quiet inside themselves. I want that for you, and I'm asking God himself to clean you properly inside, so that you will be his special people. I want God to help you be properly good in every way, with your body, and your spirit, and

also that part inside you that thinks and that gives you your feelings. Yes, God can clean you and help you be properly good, so that at the time when our leader, Jesus Christ, comes back, God will not blame you for doing anything wrong. ²⁴Yes, God will make you properly clean inside. He picked you to be his people, and he always does what he promised to do.

²⁵And now, my Christian friends, I'm asking you to pray for us. ²⁶And whenever you meet other Christians, show them that you know they are special, and that you are happy to see them.

²⁷Now listen. I want you to promise me that you will read this letter to all the Christians there. And our leader, Jesus, will be listening to you promise that.

²⁸And now I ask our leader, Jesus Christ, to be with you and to be very good to you.

From Paul

The 2nd letter that Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica

(The book in the Holy Bible called 2 Thessalonians)

About this letter

Paul wrote this letter about 2,000 years ago, about 20 years after Jesus went back to heaven, and it is now in the Holy Bible.

After Jesus went back to heaven, God sent Paul to lots of countries and lots of towns to tell people about Jesus. One of those towns was Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-9). It was a big town in the country called Greece, where the Greek people come from, and it is still there today. Sometimes people now call that town Salonica.

Paul wrote his 1st letter to the Christians at Thessalonica soon after he left there. Then about 6 months later, Paul heard that there were people making trouble for those new Christians at Thessalonica and telling them that Jesus already came back from heaven. So Paul wrote this 2nd letter to them, to tell them the true story about what will happen on the earth before Jesus comes back.

Paul said a lot of important things in this letter, so today we have to take notice of what he wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica.

Chapter 1

¹I am Paul, and this letter is from me. Silas and Timothy are here with me, and they are helping me write this letter.

We are sending this letter to you Christians that are in God's church, in the town called Thessalonica. You belong to God our father and to Jesus Christ our leader.*

²We are asking God our father, and Jesus Christ our leader, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

Paul thanked God for the Christians at Thessalonica

³Christian friends, we know that you are learning to trust God more and more, and you are loving each other more and more. So we have to thank God for you all the time. ⁴And whenever we visit God's people in the churches in other places, we tell them all about you. We tell them that you keep on believing in Jesus, no matter how much trouble people give you, and no matter how much they hurt you.

Jesus will come back, and God will judge people properly

⁵You keep on believing in Jesus, and that shows us that God always judges people the right way. It is right for you to be in God's family, because you keep on believing in Jesus, no matter how much trouble people give you.

⁶God is a good and fair judge, and in the end, he will do

* 1:1 Acts 17:1

payback to those people. He will give them trouble, just like they gave you trouble. ⁷And he will let you rest and be happy, without any trouble.

He will do that for you, and for us too, when Jesus, our leader, comes back. Everyone will see him come from heaven with a big mob of his strong angel messengers, ⁸and with a lot of fire. They will punish all those people that don't want to know God. Those people don't listen to the good story about Jesus, and they don't do what he says. ⁹God will go on punishing them for ever. He will properly ruin them. He will shut them out so they can never come near our leader Jesus. They will never see how really great and powerful he is. *

¹⁰All that will happen on the day when Jesus will come back to the earth. His own people will show what great things he has done for them, and they will really respect him. And you are his people, so you will be there when he comes back. You believed what we told you about Jesus, so you will be in that mob of his people.

God can work powerfully in Christians

¹¹So we always pray for you. God picked you to be his own people, and he wants his mob to be good people, so we ask God to keep making you better people. You believe in Jesus, and you want to do good things, so we pray that God will work powerfully in you, and we pray that he will give you the power to do all those good

* 1:9 Isaiah 2:10

things that you want to do. ¹²We ask God to do that, so that people will see how he works in you, and then they will really respect our leader, Jesus, and they will say good things about him. And we want you to be so good that Jesus will be happy with you too. We are asking those 2, God and our leader Jesus Christ, to be really good to you.

Chapter 2

Don't listen to people that reckon Jesus came back already

¹Now we want to tell you a bit more about how our leader, Jesus Christ, will come back to the earth, and the time when he will bring us all together to be with him. Christian friends, we are telling you this. * ²Don't listen to people that reckon his time has already come, and Jesus has already come back. They are wrong. We don't want you to get upset easily or frightened by those people. They might lie and say that they heard one of God's men say that, or that somebody wrote it in a report, or they might even reckon that we wrote it in a letter. ³Don't listen to them. Don't let anyone trick you like that.

A really bad man will come before Jesus comes back

You see, it will be like this. There are some things that will happen first, and after that, Jesus will come back.

* 2:1 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

A lot of people will turn against God, and then a really bad man will show himself to everyone. He will never do anything that God wants. He will be the sort of man that God wants to properly finish up. ⁴He will reckon that he is better than God. He will fight against God, and against everything else that people think is a god. He will fight against everything that people respect in a spiritual way. He will even go into God's ceremony house and sit down there, and tell everyone that he is God. *

Something is holding back that bad man

⁵Do you remember me talking about that when I was with you there in your town? ⁶You already know something about this man. You know that he wants to start doing his bad things now, but somebody is holding him back. But at the right time, God will let everyone see that bad man. ⁷You know, there is a secret power already working in the world. It is trying to get people to go against God and to break his laws. But somebody is fighting against that power and stopping it from doing that, and he will keep stopping it until God takes him away. ⁸Then that really bad man will come with that power, and he will show himself to everyone. That bad man never does anything that God wants. But then later, Jesus our leader will come and kill him. Jesus will just talk, and his words will kill that man. Jesus will finish him up when he comes with power. *

* 2:4 Ezekiel 28:2; Daniel 11:36 * 2:8 Isaiah 11:4

That really bad man will trick people

⁹You see, when that bad man will come, Satan, the boss over the bad spirits, will give some of his power to that bad man. So that bad man will come, and he will do really clever things with Satan's power. Those things will give people a big shock. They will think that he has good power, and they will believe him, but they will be wrong. * ¹⁰He will trick those people. They will think, "He is doing powerful things, so he is right," but he will really be doing very bad things with Satan's power. You know, there are some people that don't like the true message about Jesus. They don't believe it. Those people will not let God save them. They are the people that this really bad man will trick. So in the end, God will finish up those people.

¹¹You see, they will not believe the true message, so God will let somebody properly trick them, and they will believe that bad man's lies. ¹²They are people that like to do bad things, and they will not believe the true message about Jesus. So God will judge them, and he will say they are guilty.

Keep on properly trusting Jesus

¹³⁻¹⁴But, Christian friends, we thank God that you are not in that mob. Right from the start, God picked you to be the ones that he will save. And he put his Holy Spirit into you, to save you. We told you the true message about

* 2:9 Matthew 24:24

Jesus, and you believed it. It is like God called to you, at that time, to come and join his mob. And now God's spirit works in you all the time to change you into God's special people. And God will make you great, like our leader Jesus Christ.

¹⁵So then, Christian friends, you have to keep strong and keep on properly trusting Jesus. Keep on believing the things that we taught you. You see, Jesus taught us those things, and later we taught them to you. We told you those things when we were there with you, and after that, we wrote letters to you to tell you more. Now keep on believing those things.

¹⁶And we pray to our leader Jesus Christ himself, and we also pray to God our father. God loves us, and he is very good to us. He helps us to be strong, and to be brave, for ever. He tells us that we are his people, for sure. ¹⁷So we ask him to help you to be strong, and brave too, so that you keep on doing good things, and keep on saying good things.

Chapter 3

Paul asked the Christians at Thessalonica to pray for him

¹And, Christian friends, there is one more thing we want to ask you to do. Please pray for us. Ask God to help us tell a lot more people about Jesus. We want them to hear that message soon, and we want them to believe it, just like you did. ²You know, there are some people that never believe the good news about Jesus, and some very

bad people that want to give us trouble. Ask God to keep us safe from them.

Jesus will keep you safe

³But Jesus, our leader, is always good to us, and he always does what he promised to do. He will help you to keep on trusting him strongly. He will keep you safe from that really bad one, the boss over the bad spirits, so that he can't touch you. ⁴You see, God helps us know for sure about you. We reckon that you are doing the things that we told you to do, and we reckon that you will keep on doing them. ⁵We want Jesus Christ, our leader, to help you understand more about God, and to understand that he really loves you. And we want him to help you to keep going strong, just like Jesus Christ kept going strong when he was here on the earth.

Don't be lazy

⁶⁻⁷Listen, Christian friends, Jesus Christ, our leader, wants us to tell you this. If anyone says they are a Christian, but they sit down and never want to do any work, you have to keep away from that person. Remember when we were with you. Think about what we were like. We didn't sit around doing nothing. And we told you, "Don't be lazy." We want you to live the way we lived when we were with you. ⁸We worked very hard, not only in the day time, but at night time too, so that we could get enough money to look after ourselves. We always paid for the food you gave us. You didn't have to find money to look after us.

No work, no food

⁹You know, God says that if somebody tells people the good news about Jesus, it is all right for that person to ask for the things they need. But we didn't do that. We didn't ask you for anything. You see, we wanted to show you the right way for a Christian to live. ¹⁰Remember what we told you about people that don't want to work. We told you not to give them food. We said, "If they will not do any work, don't give them any food."

Get a job so you can buy your own food

¹¹You see, somebody told us that there are some lazy people there with you that never want to do any work. They just go around talking about people in a bad way and messing up other people's lives. ¹²So we write this to those lazy people. Our leader, Jesus Christ, wants us to strongly tell them this. They have to change the way they live. They have to settle down and get a job, so that they can buy their own food to eat.

¹³But to you other Christian friends we say this, keep on doing good things all the time, and always be happy to do them.

Try to straighten out those people that go wrong

¹⁴We are writing this letter to tell you the right way to live. If some people will not do what we say in this letter, tell everyone about them, and don't be their close friends. Then they will feel shame. ¹⁵But don't be their enemies. Instead, talk to them like they are your brothers or sisters, and try to straighten them out.

The end of the letter

¹⁶We will finish this letter now. You know, our leader, Jesus, he is the one that can make people feel quiet and happy inside themselves. Well, we pray that he will do that for you all the time, and that he will be with you all the time.

Paul signed this letter

¹⁷*This is me, Paul, writing this bit now. I'm saying hello to you, and I am writing it with my own hand, so everyone can be sure that this letter is really from me. I do this at the end of all my letters.* ¹⁸*I pray that Jesus Christ, our leader, will keep on being really good to all of you.*

From Paul

Notes

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About this translation

This booklet uses the **Plain English Version** (PEV) of the Scriptures, an English translation of the Bible designed for Indigenous Australians whose first language is an Indigenous language. Its purpose is to convey the meaning of the original Scripture in English that is easy to understand and natural for them. We have, as much as possible, limited its grammar, semantic and rhetorical features to those common in Aboriginal languages, and its vocabulary to the English that is most widely used.

We have applied the principles of meaning-based translation, wherein we have sought to convey the same meaning that the original authors conveyed to the original readers. That means not just considering individual words, but also the message of the whole passage.

The following are some of the more common modifications that have been made:

- Where the grammar of the original has used the passive voice, we have used the active voice, since the grammars of most indigenous Australian languages do not have passive voice.
- Where the original text has used an abstract noun to express a concept that is fundamentally an action or a quality, we have usually used a verb or adjective to translate that concept, since abstract nouns are comparatively rare in Australian languages.
- Where the grammar of the original has used long and complicated sentences, we have conformed to the grammars of Australian languages by using shorter sentences, making other adjustments as necessary to retain the meaning carried by the grammar of the original.
- Where the original text has implicit or background information that would not be obvious to our target audience, we have made that information explicit.
- Where the original text has used a word or phrase, the literal translation of which would not be understood by our target audience, we have used an explanatory rendering to convey the same meaning, whether or not it involved more words.
- Where the original text has used figurative language that would be taken as literal by our target audience, we have stated the meaning of the figure rather than its literal form.
- Where the original text is not in chronological or logical order, we have usually adjusted the order of information.

At any one place in our translation we may have used a combination of the above.

PEV Translation Team