

The colour coding is my own addition – Neil Godfrey, November 2023

From Introduction:

The note on 2 Thessalonians suggests that four different workers, or authors, successively contributed to the crafting of the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians.

The first is Paul, who is tentatively credited with sections 1:3-10, and, with the same level of uncertainty, also 1:1-2 and 3:1-2,17,18.

The second is the author of the discourse on the timing of Christ's coming, found in 2:1-12, which is placed around the year 135.

The third is the Marcionite apostle who took the epistle when it was in the form of an apocalyptic manifesto and enriched it with religious maxims.

The fourth is the Catholic who is responsible for the section 2:1-12 in the First Epistle to the Thessalonians.

Paul's posts are in *large italics*.

The Marcionite writing is in large straight characters.

The anti-Marcionite additions are in small size, straight characters.

Other additions are in small font, italics.

SECOND EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

I Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

FATE OF THE INFIDELS; FATE OF CHRISTIANS

3 We must, as is fitting, continually give thanks to God, brethren, for you, because your faith greatly advances, and the love of each of you toward one another increases. 4 So that we ourselves may boast of you in the churches of God, because of your patience and your faith in all your persecutions and in your tribulations. 5 This is proof of God's righteous judgment, since you are thus made worthy of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering. 6 For it is right that God repays affliction to those who afflict you, 7 and to you who afflict you, grant rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power, 8 in the fire of the flame to inflict punishment on those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 Their punishment will be eternal ruin from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes to be glorified in his saints and to be admired in all those who believe in him. For our preaching was believed by you in view of that day.

11 Therefore we pray continually for you, that our God may make you worthy of your calling, and by his power complete the purpose of his goodness, and crown the work of your faith, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus be glorified in you, and you may be glorified in him, according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

DATE OF THE LORD'S ADVENT

II. We pray to you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him, 1 that ye be not easily shaken in the doctrine, nor be troubled, whether by a spirit or by a word, or by a letter supposedly written by us as if the oven of the Lord had already arrived. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for nothing will happen until the apostasy first comes, until the man of ungodliness is revealed, the son of perdition and the adversary rising up. above everyone who is called god, above that which is august, even to the point of sitting in the temple of God and proving that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was with you I said these things to you? 6 And you know what is holding him back now, so that he will only appear in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity is already at work; but there is someone who holds back until he is removed. 8 And then the wicked will appear, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the appearance of his coming. 9

His coming, according to the power of Satan, is signalized by all kinds of miracles, signs, and lying wonders performed, 10 by many devices leading to iniquity those who are lost because they have not received with love the truth that would have saved them. 11 Therefore God sends them the power of error, so that they believe lies, 12 so that everyone who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness would be condemned.

MAXIMS ON CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

13 But we must continually give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because from the beginning God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and faith in the truth. 14 To this he has called you through our gospel, so that you are the glorious possession of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brothers, stand firm and keep the traditions which have been taught to you whether by our word or by our letter. 16 May our Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us everlasting comfort and good hope by grace, 17 may comfort your hearts and establish them in all good works and in good doctrine.

III Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may advance and be glorified as it is among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from corrupt and wicked men: for not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and protect you from the Bad. 4 As for you, we are convinced in the Lord that you are doing and will do what we recommend to you. 5 May the Lord stir up your hearts to love God and to wait patiently for the reward of Christ.

LABOR LAW

6 We charge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to separate yourselves from every brother who lives in disorder and not according to the tradition which you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how to imitate us, for we have not lived disorderly among you. 8 We have not eaten anyone's bread freely; but we have toiled night and day in labor and fatigue, so as not to be a burden to anyone among you. 9 Not that we had no right; but we wanted to offer ourselves as a model for your imitation. 10 For when we were with you, we declared to you: He who does not want to work must not eat. 11 We hear, in fact, that some among you live in disorder, doing nothing and busy criticizing. 12 We exhort these people and urge them in the Lord Jesus Christ to work peacefully, so as to earn the bread they eat.

13 You, brothers, do not tire of doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey the doctrine stated in this letter, report him and do not mix with him to make him blush. 15 Do not treat him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. 16 And may the Lord of peace grant you peace always and in all things.

17 Greetings from my own hand, Paul: this is my signature in all my letters. This is how I write.

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