**The First Epistle of Paul**

**to**

**the Thessalonians**

**Block Diagrammed**

One of the pressing needs of any serious student of Scripture is an understanding of the syntax of a given passage. Syntax refers to the interrelationships of paragraphs, sentences, phrases, clauses, and words. The purpose of Block Diagramming is to graphically illustrate the syntax of a passage of Scripture. The Block Diagramming process involves the laying out of a passage of Scripture by indenting subordinate linguistic units while maintaining the word order of the given text or translation. This allows the student of Scripture to determine the Divinely-inspired structure of the passage, its key features, and main points, so as to enhance the study and understanding of God's Word.

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1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

 To the church of the Thessalonians

 in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

 Grace to you and peace.

:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you,

 making mention of you in our prayers;

:3 constantly bearing in mind

 your work of faith

 and labor of love

 and steadfastness of hope

 in our Lord Jesus Christ

 in the presence of our God and Father,

:4 knowing,

 brethren beloved by God,

 His choice of you;

:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only,

 but also in power and in the Holy Spirit

 and with full conviction;

 just as you **know** what kind of men we proved

 to be among you for your sake.

:6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord,

 having received the word

 in much tribulation

 with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

:7 so that you became an example to all the

 believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

:8 For the word of the Lord has sounded

 forth from you,

 not only in Macedonia and Achaia,

 but also in every place your faith

 toward God has gone forth,

 so that we have no need to say

 anything.

:9 For they themselves report about

 us what kind of a reception we had

 with you,

 and how you turned

 to God

 from idols

 to serve a living and true God,

:10 and to wait for His Son from

 heaven,

 whom He raised from the

 dead,

 that is Jesus,

 who rescues us from

 the wrath to come.

2:1 For **you yourselves know**, brethren,

 that our coming to you was not in vain,

:2 but

 after we had already suffered

 and been mistreated in Philippi,

 **as you** **know**,

 we had the boldness

 in our God

 to speak to you the gospel of God

 amid much opposition.

:3 For our exhortation does not come

 from error

 or impurity

 or by way of deceit;

:4 but

 just as we have been approved

 by God

 to be entrusted with the gospel,

 so we speak,

 not as pleasing men,

 but God who examines our hearts.

:5 For we never came with flattering speech,

 **as you know**,

 nor with a pretext for greed

 —God is witness—

:6 nor did we seek glory from men,

 either from you or from others,

 even though

 as apostles of Christ

 we might have asserted our authority.

:7 But **we proved to be** gentle among you,

 as a nursing mother tenderly cares

 for her own children.

:8 Having so fond an affection for you,

 we were well-pleased to impart to you

 not only the gospel of God

 but also our own lives,

 because you had become very

 dear to us.

:9 **For you recall**, brethren, our labor

 and hardship,

 how

 working night and day

 so as not to be a burden to any

 of you,

 we proclaimed to you the gospel of

 God.

:10 **You are witnesses**,

 and so is God,

 how

 devoutly

 and uprightly

 and blamelessly

 we behaved toward you believers;

:11 just as you **know** how we were

 exhorting

 and encouraging

 and imploring

 each one of you

 as a father would his own children,

:12 so that you would walk in a

 manner worthy of the God

 who calls you into His own

 kingdom and glory.

:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God

 that

 when you received the word of God

 which you heard from us,

 you accepted it

 not as the word of men,

 but for what it really is,

 the word of God,

 which also performs its work in you who

 believe.

:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the

 churches of God

 in Christ Jesus

 that are in Judea,

 for you also endured the same sufferings

 at the hands of your own

 countrymen,

 even as they did from the Jews,

:15 who both killed the Lord Jesus

 and the prophets,

 and drove us out.

 They are not pleasing to God,

 but hostile to all men,

:16 hindering us from speaking to the

 Gentiles

 so that they may be saved;

 with the result that they always fill

 up the measure of their sins.

 But wrath has come upon them to the

 utmost.

:17 But we, brethren,

 having been taken away from you for a short while

 —in person, not in spirit—

 were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

:18 For we wanted to come to you

 —I, Paul, more than once—

 and yet Satan hindered us.

:19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation?

 Is it not even you,

 in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

:20 For you are our glory and joy.

3:1 Therefore

 when we could endure it no longer,

 we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,

:2 and we sent Timothy,

 our brother

 and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ,

 to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,

:3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions;

 for you yourselves know that we have been destined for

 this.

:4 For indeed

 when we were with you,

 we kept telling you in advance that we were going

 to suffer affliction;

 and so it came to pass, as you know.

:5 For this reason,

 when I could endure it no longer,

 I also sent to find out about your faith,

 for fear that the tempter might have tempted you,

 and our labor would be in vain.

:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you,

 and has brought us good news of your faith and love,

 and that you always think kindly of us,

 longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

:7 for this reason, brethren,

 in all our distress and affliction

 we were comforted about you through your faith;

:8 for now we really live,

 if you stand firm in the Lord.

:9 For what thanks can we render

 to God

 for you

 in return for all the joy

 with which we rejoice before our God

 on your account,

:10 as we night and day keep praying most

 earnestly that we may see your face,

 and may complete what is lacking in your

 faith?

:11 Now may

 our God and Father Himself

 and Jesus our Lord

 direct our way to you;

:12 and may the Lord cause you

 to increase

 and abound in love

 for one another,

 and for all people,

 just as we also do for you;

:13 so that He may establish your hearts

 without blame

 in holiness

 before our God and Father

 at the coming of our Lord Jesus

 with all His saints.

4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you

 in the Lord Jesus,

 that

 as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to

 walk and please God

 (just as you actually do walk),

 that you excel still more.

:2 For you know what commandments we gave you

 by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

:3 For this is the will of God,

 your sanctification; that is,

 that you abstain from sexual immorality;

:4 that each of you know how to possess his own

 vessel in sanctification and honor,

:5 not in lustful passion,

 like the Gentiles who do not know God;

:6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother

 in the matter

 because the Lord is the avenger

 in all these things,

 just as we also told you before

 and solemnly warned you.

:7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity,

 but in sanctification.

:8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man

 but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

:9 Now

 as to the love of the brethren,

 you have no need for anyone to write to you,

 for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

:10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren

 who are in all Macedonia.

 But we urge you, brethren,

 to excel still more,

:11 and to make it your ambition

 to lead a quiet life

 and attend to your own business

 and work with your hands,

 just as we commanded you,

:12 so that you will behave properly toward outsiders

 and not be in any need.

:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about

 those who are asleep,

 so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

 even so God will bring

 with Him

 those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

:15 For this we say to you

 by the word of the Lord,

 that we who are alive and remain

 until the coming of the Lord,

 will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

:16 For the Lord Himself will descend

 from heaven

 with a shout,

 with the voice of the archangel

 and with the trumpet of God,

 and the dead in Christ will rise first.

:17 Then we

 who are alive and remain

 will be caught up together

 with them

 in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,

 and so we shall always be with the Lord.

:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5:1 Now

 as to the times and the epochs,

 brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

:2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord

 will come just like a thief in the night.

:3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!”

 then destruction will come upon them suddenly like

 labor pains upon a woman with child,

 and they will not escape.

:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness,

 that the day would overtake you like a thief;

:5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day.

 We are not of night nor of darkness;

:6 so then let us not sleep as others do,

 but let us be alert and sober.

:7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,

 and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

:8 But

 since we are of the day,

 let us be sober,

 having put on the breastplate of faith and love,

 and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

:9 For God has not destined us for wrath,

 but for obtaining salvation

 through our Lord Jesus Christ,

:10 who died for us,

 so that

 whether we are awake

 or asleep,

 we will live together with Him.

:11 Therefore encourage one another

 and build up one another,

 just as you also are doing.

:12 But we request of you, brethren,

 that you appreciate those

 who diligently labor among you,

 and have charge over you in the Lord

 and give you instruction,

:13 and that you esteem them very highly

 in love

 because of their work.

 Live in peace with one another.

:14 We urge you, brethren,

 admonish the unruly,

 encourage the fainthearted,

 help the weak,

 be patient with everyone.

:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil,

 but always seek after that which is good for one another

 and for all people.

:16 Rejoice always;

:17 pray without ceasing;

:18 in everything

 give thanks;

 for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

:19 Do not quench the Spirit;

:20 do not despise prophetic utterances.

:21 But examine everything carefully;

 hold fast to that which is good;

:22 abstain from every form of evil.

:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;

 and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,

 without blame

 at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

:24 Faithful is He who calls you,

 and He also will bring it to pass.

:25 Brethren, pray for us.

:26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

:27 I adjure you

 by the Lord

 to have this letter read to all the brethren.

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