

# From the First and the Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the THESSALONIANS

God used the apostle Paul and his companions to establish a bountiful church (Acts 17:4) in the Greek city of Thessalonica in A.D. 50.

The apostle Paul wrote these two epistles from the city of Corinth soon after his hasty departure from Thessalonica, in order to strengthen and edify the newly founded church there.

The first and second epistles to the Thessalonians are also known as "eschatological", because in them the apostle Paul clarifies many issues concerning the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:13-18), the appearance of the man of sin, the son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3-12), and the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints (1 Thess. 3:13).

"Eschatological" is a Greek word, derived from the adj. "eschatos": last, and means: "pertaining to the last days".

Today Thessalonica is the second largest Greek city and capital of Macedonia (northern province of Greece).

1 Thessalonians 1:6: "**And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord,..**".

In the Greek text we read: "And ye became **mimetai ( μιμηταί )** of us, and of the Lord...".

*Mimetai*: pl. of **mimetes ( μιμητής )** : imitator) For an analysis of the verb "*mimeomai*": to imitate, to represent, to portray, from which the word "*mimetes*" is derived, see also: 1 Cor. 4:16

So in the original text we read: "**And ye became imitators of us, and of the Lord,..**"

1 Thessalonians 3:6: "**But now when Timothy came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity..**"

Instead of "charity" the word **agape ( ἀγάπη )** is used, which is translated as "love". See also 1 Cor. 13:1.

1 Thessalonians 4:15: "**For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**"

In the Greek text the future (**phthasomen - φθάσωμεν**) of the verb **phthano ( φθάνω )** is used.

*Phthano*: to be beforehand, ie to anticipate or precede, to come or do first or before others, to be beforehand with, to overtake in running or otherwise.

According to the above we read: "**For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not overtake them which are asleep**"

The verse has been correctly translated in the NKJV, by using the verb "precede".

1 Thessalonians 4:16 "**..with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God**".

In the original text the definite article is missing. So we read: **"..With archangel's voice and with God's trump"**

2 Thessalonians 3:17: **" The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write."**

In the Greek text, exactly the same closing salutation is used in the above verse and also in 1 Corinthians 16:21 and in Colossians 4:18

In 1 Corinthians 16:21 we read: **"The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand."**

And in Colossians 4:18 we read: **"The salutation by the hand of me Paul".**

From the original text we understand that the salutation was written with Paul's own hand as a proof that the whole epistle had been dictated by Paul himself. The translation more accurately conveying the original text is the one in Colossians 4:18.