

SENTENCE FLOW · CLAUSE STRUCTURE · GREEK

1 Thessalonians 3 — clausal layout

ΠΡΟΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΕΙΣ Α' Γ'

Each line is one clause or discrete phrase of the standard critical text, colored by syntactic type; indentation marks levels of subordination. The verse numbers sit in the left gutter; the small tag on each line names the clause type and its function.

independent

participial

relative

purpose

cause

comparative

content

conditional

phrase modifier

dashed = verbless / suspended

Flush-left = a main (independent) clause. Each dependent line begins directly beneath the word it attaches to in the line above — the anchor word is dotted-underlined, and lights up when you hover its dependent clause; each tag also names the attachment. A dashed border marks verbless, elliptical, or suspended lines. Where a long sentence's staircase runs wider than the page, the diagram scrolls sideways. (In print, or without JavaScript, lines fall back to stepped indent columns.)

The sending of Timothy 3:1–5

VV. 1–2 — UNABLE TO BEAR IT: LEFT ALONE, TIMOTHY SENT

1

Διὸ μηκέτι στέγοντες

participial — fronted causal participle — leans on the resolve below; Διὸ gathers up 2:17–20

εὐδοκήσαμεν καταλειφθῆναι ἐν Ἀθήναις μόνοι, independent — the decision — solitude accepted as the price

2 καὶ ἐπέμψαμεν Τιμόθεον, independent — the sending — coordinate with the resolve

τὸν ἀδελφὸν ἡμῶν καὶ διάκονον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, phrase modifier — apposition — the envoy's credentials (NA28 reads διάκονον τοῦ θεοῦ)

εἰς τὸ στηρίξαι ὑμᾶς καὶ παρακαλέσαι ὑπὲρ τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν purpose — εἰς τό + double infinitive — the mission: establish and encourage

VV. 3–4 — APPOINTED FOR AFFLICTION: FOREWARNED, AND IT HAPPENED

3 τὸ μηδένα σαίνεισθαι ἐν ταῖς θλίψεσιν ταύταις. content — epexegetic articular infinitive — the aim of the strengthening spelled out

αὐτοὶ γὰρ οἶδατε cause — the ground — why none should be shaken: they already know

ὅτι εἰς τοῦτο κείμεθα content — affliction the believer's appointed position (κείμεθα)

4 καὶ γὰρ ὅτε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἤμεν, conditional — temporal frame (ὅτε) — leans on προελέγομεν below

προελέγομεν ὑμῖν cause — the second ground (καὶ γὰρ) — iterative imperfect: repeated forewarning

ὅτι μέλλομεν θλίβεσθαι, content — the forewarning — μέλλομεν retained from the direct speech

καθὼς καὶ ἐγένετο comparative — prediction confirmed by event

καὶ οἶδατε. comparative — the second appeal to their own knowledge (cf. v. 3)

V. 5 — THE RESUMPTION: I SENT TO KNOW YOUR FAITH

5 διὰ τοῦτο ἀγὼ μηκέτι στέγων participial — the resumption of v. 1, now singular — leans on ἐπέμψα below

ἔπεμψα independent — the sending restated — the object (Timothy) understood from v. 2

εἰς τὸ γινῶναι τὴν πίστιν ὑμῶν, purpose — εἰς τό + infinitive — the point of the mission: to know

μή πως ἐπείρασεν ὑμᾶς ὁ πειράζων content — clause of apprehension — indicative ἐπείρασεν: the testing feared as fact

καὶ εἰς κενὸν γένηται ὁ κόπος ἡμῶν. content — the feared outcome — subjunctive γένηται: still undecided

Timothy's good news 3:6–10

VV. 6–8 — THE REPORT AND THE RELIEF: NOW WE LIVE

- 6 | Ἄρτι δὲ ἐλθόντος Τιμοθέου πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἀφ' ὑμῶν | participial — genitive absolute — leans on παρεκλήθημεν below (v. 7)
- | καὶ εὐαγγελισαμένου ἡμῖν τὴν πίστιν καὶ τὴν ἀγάπην ὑμῶν, | participial — the second genitive absolute — the report itself a 'gospel' (εὐαγγελισαμένου)
- | | καὶ ὅτι ἔχετε μνησίαν ἡμῶν ἀγαθὴν πάντοτε, | content — the report's third item — a ὅτι clause coordinate with the accusatives
- | | | ἐπιποθοῦντες ἡμᾶς ἰδεῖν | participial — nominative participle with the implied 'you' — the yearning behind the memory
- | | | | καθάπερ καὶ ἡμεῖς ὑμᾶς, | comparative — the longing reciprocated — the verb supplied from ἐπιποθοῦντες
- 7 | διὰ τοῦτο παρεκλήθημεν, ἀδελφοί, ἐφ' ὑμῖν | independent — the main clause at last — Timothy's task (v. 2) become Paul's experience
- | | ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ ἀνάγκῃ καὶ θλίψει ἡμῶν | phrase modifier — the circumstance — comfort in the midst of Paul's own affliction
- | | διὰ τῆς ὑμῶν πίστεως, | phrase modifier — the instrument — their faith the consolation
- 8 | ὅτι νῦν ζῶμεν | cause — the ground of the comfort — their steadfastness is life to Paul
- | | ἐὰν ὑμεῖς στήκετε ἐν κυρίῳ. | conditional — trailing protasis — εἰ with indicative στήκετε: the standing assumed real

VV. 9–10 — THANKSGIVING BEYOND REPAYMENT, PRAYER NIGHT AND DAY

- 9 | τίνα γὰρ εὐχαριστίαν δυνάμεθα τῷ θεῷ ἀνταποδοῦναι περὶ ὑμῶν | independent — rhetorical question — no thanks could repay (ἀνταποδοῦναι)
- | | ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ χαρᾷ | phrase modifier — the debt named — the joy to be repaid
- | | | ἣ χαίρομεν δι' ὑμᾶς ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν, | relative — cognate relative — joy rejoiced before God, i.e. in prayer
- 10 | νυκτὸς καὶ ἡμέρας ὑπερεκπερισσοῦ δεόμενοι | participial — the posture of the question — begging beyond all measure (ὑπερεκπερισσοῦ)
- | | εἰς τὸ ἰδεῖν ὑμῶν τὸ πρόσωπον | purpose — the prayer's first aim — reunion face to face
- | | | καὶ καταρτίσαι τὰ ὑστερήματα τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν; | purpose — the second aim — the faith's gaps made complete (καταρτίσαι)

The wish-prayer 3:11–13

- 11 Αὐτὸς δὲ ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ ἡμῶν καὶ ὁ κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς κατευθύναι τὴν ὁδὸν ἡμῶν πρὸς ὑμᾶς independent — first optative — singular
κατευθύναι with the double subject: Father and Son act as one
- 12 ὕμᾱς δὲ ὁ κύριος πλεονάσαι καὶ περισσεύσαι τῇ ἀγάπῃ independent — second optative — fronted ὑμᾶς: whatever becomes of Paul's road, may you
abound
- εἰς ἀλλήλους καὶ εἰς πάντας, phrase modifier — love's double reach — inside the church and beyond it
- καθάπερ καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς, comparative — the apostolic measure — Paul's own love the pattern
- 13 εἰς τὸ στηρίξαι ὑμῶν τὰς καρδίας ἀμέμπτους ἐν ἀγιωσύνῃ purpose — εἰς τό + infinitive (NA28, not the optative στηρίξαι) — love the means;
στηρίξαι answers v. 2
- ἐμπροσθεν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ πατρὸς ἡμῶν phrase modifier — the tribunal — blamelessness measured in God's own presence
- ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ μετὰ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων αὐτοῦ. ἀμήν. phrase modifier — the horizon — the parousia, μετὰ
πάντων τῶν ἁγίων (Zech 14:5)

Analysis. The chapter's shape is anxiety resolved into prayer, and the layout shows it in three postures. In vv. 1–5 the main verbs are verbs of sending — εὐδοκήσαμεν ... ἐπέμψαμεν, then ἔπεμψα — each with a fronted frame leaning forward on it (μηκέτι στέγοντες in v. 1, μηκέτι στέγων in v. 5: the inclusio of unbearable separation), while the purpose chain steps down from the mission (στηρίξαι, παρακαλέσαι) to the ground that affliction is the appointed lot (vv. 3–4 reach depth 5). Verse 6 is the hinge: a double genitive absolute — Timothy came, Timothy 'gospelled' — hangs suspended over the long-delayed main verb παρεκλήθημεν of v. 7, and the relief cascades into the ground ὅτι νῦν ζῶμεν, the rhetorical question of v. 9, and the night-and-day prayer of v. 10. Verses 11–13 are two flush-left optatives — κατευθύναι, then πλεονάσαι καὶ περισσεύσαι — with the whole chapter's goal beneath them: hearts established blameless at the parousia. Choices the layout takes a side on: the fronted participles and the genitive absolute are set as forward-leaning frames with no anchor, like protases; τὸ μηδένα σαίνεισθαι (v. 3) is read as epexegetic of the purpose of v. 2, not a fresh purpose of ἐπέμψαμεν; the μή πως clause (v. 5) hangs on γινῶναι, its indicative

ἐπείρασεν treating the testing as feared fact while subjunctive γένηται leaves the outcome open; ἔάν ὑμεῖς στήκετε (v. 8) is a trailing protasis with the indicative — the standing assumed real; in v. 11 the singular optative κατευθύναι takes God-and-Father and the Lord Jesus as one double subject; and v. 13's εἰς τὸ στηρίζαι is the articular infinitive of NA28 (not the optative στηρίζαι), hung on περισσεύσαι so that abounding love is the means of established hearts, with ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ read with στηρίζαι.

The clause segmentation, the type assigned to each line, and the indentation are interpretive — one defensible reading of the syntax, chosen to match the analysis in the chapter's interlinear (word-level syntax tier and discourse notes); other analyses divide or attach some lines differently. The Greek text is identical to the chapter data behind the interlinear and follows the standard critical text.