# 帖撒羅尼迦前書 3:1-13 深切的關懷

#### 一. 憂心如焚 (1-5)

- 3:1 我們既不能再忍,就願意獨自等在雅典,
- 3:2 打發我們的兄弟在基督福音上作神執事的提摩太前去,堅固你們,並在你們所信的道上勸勉你們,
- 3:3 免得有人被諸般患難搖動。因為你們自己知道,我們受患難原是命定的。
- 3:4 我們在你們那裏的時候, 預先告訴你們, 我們必受患難, 以後果然應驗了, 你們也知道。
- 3:5 為此, 我既不能再忍, 就打發人去, 要曉得你們的信心如何, 恐怕那誘惑人的到底誘惑了你們, 叫我們的勞苦歸於徒然。

#### 1『不能再忍』

『我們』就是保羅、西拉、提摩太(1:1)。保羅和同工愛他們,深怕他們因為所遭遇的 患難太重而軟弱跌倒。(2:19 豈不是我們主耶穌來的時候、你們在他面前站立得住 嗎?)他急切地想知道他們靈命的光景如何,甚至到一個不能忍受的地步,他無法不採 取一些行動,就是『獨自等在雅典』。他們本來要繼續往其他地方傳福音,但因為要知道 帖城信徒的光景,就差遣了提摩太回去帖城探聽消息,他和西拉留在雅典等候。

2『兄弟在基督福音上作神執事的 brother and fellow worker for God in the gospel of Christ』

意即這位弟兄是我們在傳揚基督福音的事上與我們一同為神做工的。當我們在傳福音的時候就是為神做工了。參林後5:20 所以我們作基督的使者,就好像神藉我們勸你們一般。 我們替基督求你們與神和好。

『堅固你們, 並在你們所信的道上勸勉你們 strengthen and encourage you in your faith』

保羅的愛心是表現在實際的行動上。他不只是嘴巴說說而已,他也願意在他們的患難中幫助他們。他自己雖然不能去,但他卻差遣了提摩太去他們那裡,在信心上堅固(加固strengthen)與勸勉(encourage)他們。如何堅固與勸勉呢?我們前面說過,保羅他們可能只在帖城待了幾個禮拜,沒有足夠的時間做門徒訓練。現在提摩太再去拜訪他們,應該順便補上了這個缺口,使他們對真理有更深的認識,知道如何面對試探與試煉。(參10節)並且提摩太也更加了解了他們在信仰上面的優缺點,成為保羅寫下這封書信的依據。

#### 3『免得有人被諸般患難搖動』

這句話證明信徒的確有可能會被患難搖動,失去信心,否則保羅就不必擔憂了。搖動和前面的堅固相對。保羅如何幫助他們不被諸般患難搖動?『免得』代表前面所做的事可以防

止後面的事發生。換句話說,提摩太去他們那裡在信心上堅固他們,鼓勵他們,可以幫助他們站立得穩,不至於被諸般患難搖動。

#### 『因為你們自己知道, 我們受患難原是命定的』

保羅這裏是重覆基督的話(約 16:33 我將這些事告訴你們,是要叫你們在我裏面有平安。在世上你們有苦難;但你們可以放心,我已經勝了世界。)他在提後 3:12 又說了類似的話(提後 3:12 不但如此,凡立志在基督耶穌裏敬虔度日的也都要受逼迫。)由於我們不屬這世界,世界就會很我們(約 15:19 你們若屬世界,世界必愛屬自己的;只因你們不屬世界,乃是我從世界中揀選了你們,所以世界就恨你們。)因此患難的臨到乃是必然的。如果一個基督徒在世上從來沒有因為信仰受到逼迫或苦難,很可能是因為他的信仰太膚淺了。

# 4『我們必受患難,以後果然應驗了』

保羅用自己的經歷, 證實他前面所說的基督徒『受患難原是命定的』。這也是讓他們心裡有所準備, 在面臨患難時不至於驚慌失措。

#### 5『我既不能再忍』

在第一節時用的是『我們』, 而這裡用的是『我』, 顯然執筆的人是保羅自己, 但問安時他將西拉、提摩太也加進來。他兩次用『既不能再忍』顯出他急迫的心情, 證明他是何等地愛他們。

『要曉得你們的信心如何, 恐怕那誘惑人的到底誘惑了你們』

為什麼要曉得他們的信心如何呢?因為他怕『那誘惑人的到底誘惑了你們』。換句話說,抵擋誘惑(試探)的方法就是靠著信心。如果信心軟弱的話,就會落入試探中而跌倒。所以他差遣提摩太去堅固他們的信心。

#### 『誘惑(試探)人的』

撒但的計倆之一就是用世界的名利財富來誘惑我們,特別是在患難中的時候。因為患難中人的意志往往特別軟弱,如果此時再有聲音來叫我們避難趨易的話,我們很容易就會跌倒了。撒但的另一個計倆就是外面環境的艱難,就像保羅他們所經歷的一樣。然而不論是威嚇或是利誘,我們都要靠著信心來勝過魔鬼。參彼前5:8-9 務要謹守,警醒。因為你們的仇敵魔鬼,如同吼叫的獅子,遍地遊行,尋找可吞吃的人。你們要用堅固的信心抵擋他,因為知道你們在世上的眾弟兄也是經歷這樣的苦難。

保羅不能再忍受什麼?為什麼不能再忍? 基督徒可能會被患難搖動,失去信心嗎?如何防止? 提摩太如何在他們所信的道上堅固與勸勉他們? 基督徒會遭遇患難嗎?聖經是怎麼說的?有什麼例證嗎? 我是如何關懷弟兄姐妹?我是否有實際的行動? 我是否在別人面前表現出一個基督徒的樣式?是否因此而受到逼迫? 魔鬼經常如何攻擊基督徒?我們應該如何抵擋他? 我面對外界的威嚇利誘時是否很容易妥協?是否因此而與世界同流合污?

#### 二. 如釋重負 (6-10)

- 3:6 但提摩太剛才從你們那裏回來,將你們信心和愛心的好消息報給我們,又說你們常常 記念我們,切切地想見我們,如同我們想見你們一樣。
- 3:7 所以, 弟兄們, 我們在一切困苦患難之中, 因着你們的信心就得了安慰。
- 3:8 你們若靠主站立得穩, 我們就活了。
- 3:9 我們在神面前,因着你們甚是喜樂;為這一切喜樂,可用何等的感謝為你們報答神呢?
- 3:10 我們晝夜切切地祈求,要見你們的面,補滿你們信心的不足。

#### 6『信心和愛心的好消息』

保羅在第一章裡面已經稱讚過他們的信心和愛心 (1:3 在神我們的父面前,不住的紀念你們因信心所做的工夫,因愛心所受的勞苦,因盼望我們主耶穌基督所存的忍耐。) 他在他們那裡的時候以及後來離開以後,他們都表現出來美好的見證,甚至作了馬其頓和亞該亞所有信主之人的榜樣 (1:7)。如今保羅被迫離開他們有一段時間,他擔心他們遭遇患難而跌倒,迫切地想要知道他們屬靈的狀況如何,就打發提摩太去探望他們,就是前面1-5 節所說的。他們顯然沒有辜負保羅的期望,有實際的行動來表達出他們的信心和愛心,使提摩太可以看出,並且將這好消息帶回來。因為沒有行動的信心和愛心其實是死的。 (雅 2:14-17,約壹 3:17-18)

『切切地想見我們,如同我們想見你們一樣』

他們的愛心不但表現在彼此之間的相愛上,也表現在對保羅他們的思念上。保羅在前面說: 2:17-18 我們極力的想法子,很願意見你們的面。所以我們有意到你們那裡; 我保羅有一兩次要去,只是撒但阻擋了我們。他甚至顧念他們到一個地步,『不能再忍』,就打發提摩太去探望他們, 表達他的關切之心。提摩太也不負所託,帶回來了好消息,告訴保羅他們『切切地想見我們,如同我們想見他們一樣』。他們的思念之情,表明了他們與保羅之間深厚的友情,也彰顯了他們對使徒的感恩之心。

#### 7『因着你們的信心就得了安慰』

『因著』翻成『藉著』比較恰當。保羅如何在患難困苦中得到安慰呢?他本來因為擔心帖城信徒的屬靈狀況憂慮煩悶,但接到提摩太報告的好消息,知道他們愛心信心都有長進,並沒有被撒但誘惑離開真道。因此他憂愁掛慮的心藉著他們的堅定的信心得到安慰,靈裡也得到釋放。

保羅是否知道他們的信心和愛心?為什麼還要提摩太去查看? 我們的信心和愛心可以讓人看出來嗎?是活的還是死的? 保羅如何在患難困苦中得到安慰?如果在今天,保羅會因著我們的信心得到 安慰嗎?

## 8『若靠主站立得穩, 我們就活了 (really live)』

保羅對他們的愛真是無以復加,他是用整個的生命來愛他們。他們若站立得穩,保羅的生命裡面就充滿了生機。反過來說,他們如果軟弱跌倒的話,保羅的生活就是一片悲傷。如同我們常說的『生氣勃勃』和『死氣沉沉』一樣。『靠主(in the Lord)』就是在主裡。我們前面已經說過在主裡的意義及重要性(1:1)。所以如果我們不在主裡面,就像枝子沒有連在葡萄樹上一樣,我們就一無所成。帖城信徒若不在基督裡,就無法站立得穩,必定跌倒,我們也是一樣。參約15:5 我是葡萄樹,你們是枝子。常在我裏面的,我也常在他裏面,這人就多結果子;因為離了我,你們就不能做甚麼。

#### 9『因着你們甚是喜樂』

如今他們的信心已經在眾人面前顯明出來,保羅真的『活了』,因此在神面前,因着他們甚是喜樂。

#### 『可用何等的感謝為你們報答神呢?』

意即要怎樣感謝神才能為他們報答神。可見保羅內心的喜樂是何等的大,甚至都不知道要 怎樣為他們感謝神的恩典。他們能夠在主裡面站立得穩,對保羅來說是非常重要的事,值 得他全心全意的感謝神。

我們要如何才能站立得穩?如果我們不在主裡面會有什麼結果? 什麼叫『活了』?難道保羅之前是死的嗎? 我們今天對弟兄姐妹的關心與愛心是否也是如此真摯深切? 我們對他們靈命的成長是否也是如此重視?是否曾為他們靈命成長感謝神? 還是我們只是關心他們身體和物質上需要? 我們會否因著他們靈裡的成長甚是喜樂呢?

#### 10『補滿信心的不足』

『信心 faith』在這裡就是信仰的意思,中文聖經有時翻成『真道』。第2節時我們提到保羅當時可能只傳了幾個禮拜的福音,就被猶太人趕離帖城(徒17:1-9)。很顯然帖城信徒的靈命還很幼小,信心才剛剛萌芽,他們需要更多的栽培與造就。保羅盼望能再回到他們中間將神的真理多多地教導他們,補足他們在信仰上的缺失。

什麼叫做補滿信心的不足?他們為什麼信心不足? 我的信心建築在什麼上面?我是否常常藉著神的話來培養我的信心?

#### 三. 求神堅固(11-13)

3:11 願神我們的父和我們的主耶穌一直引領我們到你們那裏去。

3:12 又願主叫你們彼此相愛的心,並愛眾人的心都能增長,充足,如同我們愛你們一樣,

3:13 好使你們當我們主耶穌同他眾聖徒來的時候,在我們父神面前,心裏堅固,成為聖潔,無可責備。

#### 11『引領我們到你們那裏去』

保羅雖然從提摩太那裡得知了他們的訊息,但他盼望見他們的熱切並沒有消散。他仍然想要去看望他們,因此他祈願『神我們的父和我們的主耶穌一直引領我們到你們那裏去』。 他對帖城信徒的愛心和關懷真是我們對待弟兄姐妹的榜樣。

## 12『彼此相愛、愛眾人』

耶穌最後的命令就是要我們彼此相愛。在教會裡面能夠彼此相愛的話,才能談到愛眾人。如果弟兄姐妹彼此之間都不能相愛的話,根本就不用談愛別人了(彼後1:7)。他們已經證明了他們的愛心,但保羅希望他們更加長進。他願主使他們彼此相愛的心,並愛眾人的心都能增長,充足。而且這種相愛的程度要像保羅愛他們一樣,或是基督愛我們一樣(約13:34)。這是有實際行動的愛,而不是普通的泛泛之愛,更不是口頭的愛。

#### 13『主耶穌同他眾聖徒來的時候』

這裡再次提到基督的再來。我們前面已經講過,在這封書信裡面,每一章都提到基督的再來,所以基督再來也是本書信的主題。他第一次來的時候,默默無聞地降生在馬槽中,為的是救贖世人。他第二次來的時候,卻是要轟轟烈烈地帶著千萬天軍降臨,打敗敵基督(啟 19:11-21,猶 1:14),在地上建立彌賽亞(千禧年)國度(啟 20:1-6)。這是歷世歷代以色列人的盼望,更是基督徒完全得贖的盼望(羅 8:23)。

### 『好使…心裡堅固, 成為聖潔, 無可責備』

即他們的心在聖潔裡被堅固以致沒有可指摘的地方(hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless)。要無可責備就必須先在聖潔裡面,即要離開世界歸給神。然而我們是否也是如此呢?我們在基督再來的時候,能夠『心裡堅固,成為聖潔,無可責備』嗎?保羅在這裡提供了一個途徑:好使(so that)。換句話說,只要我們能夠做到前面 12 節所說的,就可以在基督再來的時候在他面前站立得住。也就是說我們如果靠著主使彼此相愛的心,並愛眾人的心都增長,充足,也就是能實際活出愛的生命,有愛的行為,我們就可以在基督再來的時候心裡堅固,成為聖潔,無可責備了。

我們在教會裡面是否彼此相愛? 我是否心裡怨恨別人? 我是否用保羅或基督的愛來愛別人? 主耶穌第一次和第二次來臨最大的區別是什麼? 我歡喜迎接基督的再來嗎? 我能夠在神面前堅固, 聖潔, 無可指責嗎? 我們如何才能在神面前心裡堅固, 成為聖潔, 無可責備? 今天的查經是否對我有幫助? 我是否願立下計劃在哪方面加以改進?

#### 和合本

- 3:1 我們既不能再忍,就願意獨自等在雅典,
- 3:2 打發我們的兄弟在基督福音上作神執事的(作神執事的:有古卷是與神同工的)提摩太前去,堅固你們,並在你們所信的道上勸勉你們,
- 3:3 免得有人被諸般患難搖動。因為你們自己知道,我們受患難原是命定的。
- 3:4 我們在你們那裏的時候,預先告訴你們,我們必受患難,以後果然應驗了,你們也知道。
- 3:5 為此, 我既不能再忍, 就打發人去, 要曉得你們的信心如何, 恐怕那誘惑人的到底誘惑了你們, 叫我們的勞苦歸於徒然。
- 3:6 但提摩太剛才從你們那裏回來,將你們信心和愛心的好消息報給我們,又說你們常常記念我們,切切地想見我們,如同我們想見你們一樣。
- 3:7 所以, 弟兄們, 我們在一切困苦患難之中, 因着你們的信心就得了安慰。
- 3:8 你們若靠主站立得穩, 我們就活了。

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- 3:9 我們在神面前,因着你們甚是喜樂;為這一切喜樂,可用何等的感謝為你們報答神呢?
- 3:10 我們畫夜切切地祈求,要見你們的面,補滿你們信心的不足。
- 3:11 願神我們的父和我們的主耶穌一直引領我們到你們那裏去。
- 3:12 又願主叫你們彼此相愛的心,並愛眾人的心都能增長,充足,如同我們愛你們一樣,
- 3:13 好使你們當我們主耶穌同他眾聖徒來的時候,在我們父神面前,心裏堅固,成為聖潔,無可責備。

**NASB** 

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#### <sup>1</sup> So when we could bear it no <sup>1</sup> Therefore, when we could no longer <sup>1</sup> So when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay on in endure it, we thought it best to be left longer, we thought it best to be Athens alone. behind, alone at Athens, left by ourselves in Athens. <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and <sup>2</sup> We<sup>[a]</sup> sent Timothy, our brother <sup>2</sup> We sent Timothy, who is our and fellow worker for God[b] in God's fellow worker in the gospel of brother and co-worker in God's the gospel of Christ, to Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for service in spreading the gospel of strengthen you and encourage the benefit of your faith, Christ, to strengthen and you about your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be [a] disturbed by encourage you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be shaken these afflictions. For you yourselves know <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be unsettled by these afflictions. For you that we have been destined for this. by these trials. For you know yourselves know that we are <sup>4</sup> For even when we were with you, quite well that we are destined for destined for this. we *kept* telling you in advance that we them. <sup>4</sup> For in fact when we were with were going to suffer affliction; [b] and so it <sup>4</sup> In fact, when we were with you, happened, [c] as you know. you, we were telling you in we kept telling you that we would <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could no longer be persecuted. And it turned out advance that we would suffer endure it. I also sent to difind out about that way, as you well know. affliction, and so it has happened, as you well know.[c] <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could your faith, for fear that the tempter might <sup>5</sup> So<sup>[d]</sup> when I could bear it no have tempted you, and our labor would be stand it no longer, I sent to find longer, I sent to find out about for nothing. out about your faith. I was afraid your faith, for fear that the that in some way the tempter had <sup>6</sup>But now that Timothy has come to us tempter somehow tempted you tempted you and that our labors from you, and has brought us good news and our toil had proven useless. might have been in vain. of your faith and love, and that you <sup>6</sup> But now Timothy has <sup>6</sup> But Timothy has just now come always think kindly of us, longing to see us come[e] to us from you and given to us from you and has brought just as we also long to see you, us the good news of your faith good news about your faith and <sup>7</sup> for this reason, brothers *and sisters*, in all and love and that you always love. He has told us that you our distress and affliction we were think of us with affection [f] and always have pleasant memories of comforted about you through your faith; long to see us just as we also us and that you long to see us, just <sup>8</sup> for now we *really* live, if you stand firm long to see you![g] as we also long to see you. in the Lord.

<sup>7</sup> So<sup>[h]</sup> in all our distress and affliction, we were reassured about you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[i]</sup> through your faith.

<sup>8</sup> For now we are alive again,<sup>[i]</sup> if you stand firm in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For how can we thank God enough for you,<sup>[k]</sup> for all the joy we feel<sup>[i]</sup> because of you before our God?

<sup>10</sup> We pray earnestly night and day to see you in person<sup>[m]</sup> and make up what may be lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

<sup>12</sup> And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we do for you,

strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.<sup>[n]</sup>

# Footnotes (see below)

<sup>9</sup> For what thanks can we give to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice because of you before our God, <sup>10</sup> as we keep praying most earnestly night and day that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; <sup>13</sup> so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the <sup>[c]</sup>coming of our Lord Jesus with all His <sup>[f]</sup>saints.

#### **Footnotes**

- a. 1 Thessalonians 3:3 Or deceived
- b. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:4</u> Lit *just as*
- c. 1 Thessalonians 3:4 Lit and
- d. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:5</u> Or to know, to ascertain
- e. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:13</u> Or presence
- f. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:13</u> Lit *holy ones*; i.e., God's people

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith.

<sup>8</sup> For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

<sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

<sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

<sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

- a. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:2</u> tn Here καί (*kai*) has not been translated because of differences between Greek and English style.
- b. 1 Thessalonians 3:2 tc A variety of readings occurs in this verse. Instead of "and fellow worker for God" (καὶ συνεργὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, kai sunergon tou theou), B and 1962 have "and fellow worker" (καὶ συνεργόν); κ A P Ψ 0278 6 81 629\* 1241 1739 1881 2464 lat co read "and servant of God" (καὶ διάκονον τοῦ θεοῦ, kai diakonon tou theou); D<sup>2</sup> 1505 M al and a few versional witnesses read "and a servant of God and our fellow worker" (καὶ διάκονον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ συνεργὸν ἡμῶν); and F G have "servant and fellow worker for God" (διάκονον καὶ συνεργὸν τοῦ θεοῦ). The reading of the text (καὶ συνεργὸν τοῦ θεοῦ) is found in D\* 33 b d m o Ambst Pel. It may be argued that all readings that do not collocate συνεργόν with θεοῦ are secondary, as this is certainly the harder reading. Indeed, in only one other place in the NT are human beings said to be συνεργοὶ θεοῦ (sunergoi theou; 1 Cor 3:9), and the simplest (though by no means the only) interpretation is that the genitive should be taken associatively ("a fellow worker in association with God"). It is difficult to account for συνεργὸν τοῦ θεοῦ here unless it is authentic because of the theological difficulty that would be easily seen in this wording. (However, the text in 1 Cor 3:9 is solid [Χριστοῦ(Christou) is found in 2400, a thirteenthcentury minuscule; no other variants are known]. This gives some pause to attributing theological difficulty as a cause for scribal alteration in our passage.) A genealogy of the readings suggests that various scribes may have deleted τοῦ θεοῦ or swapped διάκονον for συνεργόν to remove the offense. The readings of the Byzantine text and two Western mss (F G) appear to be conflations of earlier readings, but the reading of F G nevertheless indirectly supports καὶ συνεργὸν τοῦ θεοῦ since it does not remove the offense. Although the witnesses for καὶ

συνεργὸν τοῦ θεοῦ are minimal, the internal evidence is quite strong in favor of this reading. With hesitation, it is adopted as authentic.tn Although 1 Thess 3:2 is frequently understood to mean that Timothy is "God's fellow worker," such a view assumes that the genitive  $\theta$ εοῦ (theou) is associative for it is related to συνεργόν (sunergon). However, a genitive of association is not required by the syntax (cf. ExSyn 130), and it almost certainly is contrary to Paul's theological outlook. See sn at 1 Cor 3:9.

- c. 1 Thessalonians 3:4 tn Grk "just as it also occurred and you know."
- d. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 tn Or "for this reason."
- e. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:6</u> tn *Grk* "but now Timothy having come," a subordinate clause leading to the main clause of <u>v. 7</u>.
- f. 1 Thessalonians 3:6 tn Grk "you have a good remembrance of us always."
- g. 1 Thessalonians 3:6 tn Grk "just as also we you."
- h. 1 Thessalonians 3:7 tn Or "for this reason."
- i. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:7</u> tn *Grk* "brothers." See note on the phrase "brothers and sisters" in 1:4.
- j. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:8</u> tn *Grk* "because now we live," in comparison with his feelings of dread in not knowing how they were doing (cf. 2:17-3:5).
- k. 1 Thessalonians 3:9 tn Grk "what thanks can we render to God about you."
- 1. <u>1 Thessalonians 3:9</u> tn *Grk* "all the joy with which we rejoice."
- m. 1 Thessalonians 3:10 tn Grk "to see your face."
- n. 1Thessalonians 3:13 tc ‡ Significant and early witnesses (κ\* A D\* 81 629 lat bo) have ἀμήν (amēn, "amen") at the end of this benediction, while the majority of mss, including several excellent authorities (²κ B D² F G Ψ 0278 1175 1241 1505 1739 1881 2464 M it sy sa), lack the particle. A decision is difficult, but in light of Paul's habit of adding the ἀμήν to his notes of praise, even in the middle of his letters (cf. Rom 9:5; 11:36; 15:33; Gal 1:5), one might expect scribes to emulate this practice. Although a decision is difficult, since there is little reason for scribes to omit the particle, it is best to follow the shorter reading. NA²8 has the particle in brackets, indicating some doubts as to its authenticity.