

Grace and Peace: A Gospel Greeting

1 Thessalonians 1:1

1.) Grace

A.) Grace vs. Mercy

- Mercy is not getting what you deserve.
- Grace is getting what you don't deserve.

"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

(Romans 3:23)

"There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

(Romans 3:10-12)

B.) Grace Foreshadowed

*"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; **8** but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."*

(Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

"Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord."

(Deuteronomy 9:7)

- An undeserved gift for an undeserving people.

C.) Grace Realized

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

(John 1:14)

- Jesus Christ is the Embodiment of Grace.

"And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace"

(John 1:16)

D.) Grace Extended

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith"

(Ephesians 2:4-8)

"Grace summarized is the saving work of God through Jesus Christ. But, grace embraces not only the gift of salvation, but also the continuous divine action by which he enables his people to do his will."

- Gene L Green

"...I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

(1 Corinthians 15:10)

2.) Peace

A.) Peace Is Not Emotional Tranquility

B.) Peace Is All Things Rightly Related to God and One Another

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

(1 Corinthians 15:10)

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

(Luke 2:14)

"who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Romans 4:26-5:1)

"They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace."

(Jeremiah 6:14)

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

(John 14:27)

*"If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*

(Romans 8:31-32)