

Sunday, August 7, 2022—Galatians 1:3 Grace & Peace: Understanding God’s Attitude Toward the World Today

Galatians 1:3

- **Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,**
- Romans 15:15—generally, we think of God the Father as the one from whom grace comes.
- Romans 5:15—Jesus Christ is the One through whom God’s grace is expressed to humanity.
- Paul also associates peace with both God the Father and God the Son.
 - Romans 15:33, 16:20—refer to God as the God of Peace.
- Again, we see that God the Father is the author and originator of peace. Jesus Christ has made the Peace of God available to us through his death on the cross.
 - Romans 5:1
 - Colossians 1:20
 - Ephesians 2:14
- Paul begins every one of the Church Epistles with a similar statement about “grace and peace:”
 - Romans 1:7—To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: **Grace to you and peace** from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - I Corinthians 1:3—**Grace be unto you, and peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - II Corinthians 1:2—**Grace be to you and peace** from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Galatians 1:3—**Grace be to you and peace from** God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - Ephesians 1:2—**Grace be to you, and peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Philippians 1:2—**Grace be unto you, and peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I Thessalonians 1:1— Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: **Grace be unto you, and peace**, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- II Thessalonians 1:2—**Grace unto you, and peace**, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In the Pastoral Epistles the word “mercy” is added to the list.
 - I Timothy 1:2—Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: **Grace, mercy, and peace**, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - II Timothy 2:2—To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: **Grace, mercy, and peace**, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Titus 1:4—To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: **Grace, mercy, and peace**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- We should not view Paul’s statements in these verses about “grace and peace” as simply just his formula greeting in all his epistles. Rather, there is a great dispensational truth encapsulated in this statement. They are emblematic of God’s today toward the world today.
- Ephesians 2:14—says that Christ is our peace. Notice the context in which this verse appears. In time past (Eph. 2:11-12) the Gentiles were without hope and without God in the world and therefore certainly not at peace with God.
- Now, because a dispensational change has occurred, God is dealing with all mankind based on “grace and peace.” When Paul repeatedly uses the phrase “grace and peace” at the beginning of his epistles, he is reminding his readers about God’s attitude toward the world today.
- Revelation 19:11—what is the opposite of “grace and peace?” “Judgment and war” as in Rev. 19:11. One day God will declare a hot war during which he will execute judgment.

Dispensational Application

- According to the prophetic time schedule of “time past” (Eph. 2:11-12) God should have dealt with the world in his wrath.
 - Psalm 2:4-5
 - Psalm 110:1-2—man’s declaration of war against God and His Christ was to be—and will be—visited with sever judgment. God will make a counter-declaration of war on a Christ-rejecting world during the 70th week of Daniel in the “ages to come” (Eph. 2:7).

- Acts 2:16-21—Peter declared to Israel that the last days of prophecy had not just arrived but that they had begun. The pouring out of God’s Spirit upon them would be followed by the pouring out of judgment upon his enemies.
- Acts 2:32-35—Peter reaches back into Israel’s prophetic scriptures (Psalm 110) to call Israel to account for their part in the death of the Messiah. As of Acts 2 Christ had ascended into heaven (Acts 1) to be seated at the right hand of God “until” the time came to execute Psalm 110:1-2.
- Acts 7:51-56—Stephan saw Christ standing in the heavens getting ready to execute his wrath upon unbelieving Israel along with the Gentiles.
- Just as the cup of Israel’s iniquity was full and the stage was set for the judgment of God to fall, God interrupted the prophetic program and reached down in His wondrous grace to save Saul of Tarsus, the leaders of the rebellion against Christ, and sent him forth as a special envoy to all nations, as an apostle of grace, to offer peace to His enemies everywhere through faith in Christ.
- I Timothy 1:11-16
- For most of the past 2,000 years God’s attitude toward the world has been grace and peace.
- II Corinthians 6:2—this verse has been true for nearly 2,000 years. The entire dispensation of grace is day of salvation.
- II Corinthians 5:19—this verse does not mean that everyone is automatically saved or forgiven of all their sins rather it means that God’s has temporarily stayed the exaction of his wrath against sin during the dispensation of grace.
 - See our recent series [Why Grammar Matters](#) for a detailed breakdown of II Cor. 5:19.

Practical Application

- I Corinthians 1:3—God’s official attitude toward the world today is “grace and peace.”
 - Ephesians 2:8-9—we are saved by grace through faith.
 - Ephesians 3:2—we live during the dispensation of grace.
 - Colossians 2:6—we live and walk by grace. We are not under the law.
- Someone from this assembly, a couple year ago, wrote and stated the following about “grace” and “peace” in a Facebook post.

- “Grace—calmly happy or well off. The free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all benefits man receives from him; Divine influence upon the heart, and it’s reflection in the life, including gratitude; joy, pleasure, thanks (-s,worthy).
 - Also, with the added dimension of unmerited favor, joyfully given. God delights, is joyful in bestowing grace upon us.

Peace— prosperity, one, quietness, rest, + set at one again; a state of quiet or tranquility: freedom from disturbance or agitation: applicable to society to individuals, or to the temper of the mind.

There is a reason Paul starts everyone one of his epistles with a form of “Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”. Those two words are jammed packed with God’s desire for us in living out our identity in Christ. . .”

- Romans 5:1—if you have trusted the finished work of Christ as the only total and complete payment for your sin then you “have peace” with God the Father through the work of his son the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Romans 4:24—you “received” peace with God freely “by his grace” through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
- As Gentiles, we would have been prime candidates for the wrath of God. Just when the world was ripe for judgment and war, God interrupted the prophesied kingdom program, set the nation of Israel aside, and declared a day of grace and peace.