

Grace & Peace

Philippians, Part II

Philippians 1:1-2 & 4:21-23

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Excel Still More

The theme of Philippians is Paul's desire to see the Philippians further conformed to the image of Christ, that by the grace of God they *excel still more*.

But if the Philippians are to excel still more then this excelling must be pursued in the correct way. The Gospel announces not only that Christ has died to forgive us but also that He has risen so that we might live in newness of life. God's _____ is the foundation of our *sanctification* no less than our *justification*.

II. A Chiastic Outline (cf. Phil 2:12-16)

III. Grace and Peace to You

A. Source of Spiritual Life (*charis* – Ps 127:1-2; 1 Cor 4:7)

_____ is God's unmerited favor. All that which comes in the Christian life is a result of God's working in us and through us. If God's grace is not present, then no amount of industrious labor on our part will suffice.

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

All we are, all we possess, all we know comes as a gift from God the Father, because of Christ's death and resurrection, by the inspiration and enabling of the Spirit; in other words, it comes as _____ from the Triune God.

Because God's grace is the necessary foundation for all Christian labor and growth and maturation, it is imperative for us to seek God's blessing in all things. This was Augustine's insight, "O Lord, command what Thou wilt and grant what Thou dost command."

- A. Opening Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Thanksgiving & Prayer (1:3-11)
- C. Proclaiming Christ Amidst Opposition (1:12-18)
- D. Magnifying Christ (1:19-26)
- E. Striving & Suffering for Christ (1:27-30)
- F. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:1-11)
- G. Work out Your Salvation (2:12-16)
- F'. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:17-30)
- E'. All things for Christ (3:1-11)
- D'. Pressing toward the Goal in Christ (3:12-16)
- C'. Standing Firm Amidst Opposition (3:17-4:7)
- B'. Meditating & Rejoicing (4:8-20)
- A'. Closing Greetings (4:21-23)

B. Goal of Spiritual Life (*shalom, eirēnē* – Ps 85)

The ancient Jewish greeting was to pronounce _____ – peace. Paul incorporates this traditional greeting and now applies God's *shalom* to the Christian community. Peace comes from *God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. In other words, we are the inheritors of all God's promises throughout the OT.

I will hear what God the Lord will speak, For He will speak _____ To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. (Ps 85:8-9)

1. Internal Peace (1:15ff, 21, 28; 4:6-9, 11-13)

Notice some of the things that Paul desires for the Philippians:

- Peace in the face of opposition – 1:15ff
- Peace in the face of death – 1:21
- Peace in the face of persecution – 1:28
- Peace in the face of life – 4:6-7
- Peace of conscience – 4:8-9
- Peace in trying circumstances – 4:11

2. Peace with others (1:27; 2:1-4; 3:16; 4:2-5, 10)

Peace with one another is a persistent theme in Philippians:

- 1:27 –
- 2:1-4 –
- 3:16 –
- 4:2-5 –
- 4:10 –
- 4:21 –

Harmonious relationships are the goal of God's working in and among us – God pours out His grace upon us that we might be able to live with one another in a fashion that displays the grace of God at work. This doesn't mean never having disagreements or problems or misunderstandings. It means that we work through these *in the Lord*.

IV. Conclusion

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ... The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.