

GRACE AND PEACE!

Revelation 1:4,5

Introduction:

- A. Revelation was to be sent to _____ churches
 - 1. A church would read its entire contents, c_____ it, and send it to another church.
 - 2. The addressed churches were located in A_____ which corresponds to modern day Turkey.
- B. The salutation of Revelation is often overlooked because:
 - 1. It is thought to be a way of saying h_____
 - 2. It is thought of as a w_____ that all is going well.

Not a hopeful wish, but an exclaimed fact

- A. The secular Greek tradition of salutations in letters
 - a. They used the s_____ terms of grace and peace
 - b. They wrote it in a f_____ that carried the idea of a wish (grammarians call it the infinitive form).
- B. The New Testament writers
 - a. They put the words grace and peace as nouns and in the s_____ case without any connection to a verb (grace to you and peace)
 - b. Ancient Greek writing had no p_____ marks. If they wanted to have the equivalent of our exclamation point, they would put nouns in the subject case without any connection to a verb.
- C. Grace to you and peace
 - a. Is an exclamation of f_____ for the believer.
 - b. In the course of life there are highs and lows that come and go, but grace and peace never l_____ the believer.
 - c. If you have trusted Christ, when you realize the magnitude of this grace and peace you can shout – GRACE! PEACE! They are m_____ forever!

Not a human work, but a divine gift

- A. Grace - the undeserved gift of s_____
 - 1. No one deserves salvation because all have s_____ and have fallen short of God's glory (Rom 3:23).
 - 2. If grace had any hint of a reward, it would no longer be g_____ (Rom 11:6)

3. Eph 2:8,9 paints grace very clearly as a g_____ from God, not as a result of works so that no one can b_____.

B. The three sources of grace (and peace)

1. From Him who is and who was and who is to come
 - a. This terminology is only found in Revelation.
 - b. Rev 1:8 identifies this one as the L_____ God.
 - c. This refers to God the F_____ and emphasizes
 - 1) His e_____ nature (is and always was)
 - 2) That one day He is c_____
2. From the seven Spirits who are before His throne
 - a. This terminology is only found in Revelation
 - b. We see this terminology in 3:1; 4:5; 5:6 and the seven Spirits are intimately connected to the Father and Jesus.
 - c. The seven Spirits must refer to the Holy Spirit because
 - 1) Salvation by grace can only come from G_____.
 - 2) The Holy Spirit is God (see 2 Cor 3:17 where the L_____ or Yahweh is called the Spirit).
3. From Jesus Christ
 - a. He has always been G_____ (Jn 1:1).
 - b. He is God in the f_____ (Jn 1:14).

C. Peace

1. This is not a f_____
2. This is the reality of a p_____ relationship with God.
 - a. Before coming to Christ we were e_____ of God (Rom 5:10 – this is how God viewed us)
 - b. God gave us grace anyway and made us r_____ with Him (He reconciled us to Himself – Rom 5:10)
 - c. This resulted in us no longer being at odds with God but having p_____ with God (Rom 5:1).

D. How grace and peace works in the Godhead:

1. The Father d_____ the sinner to Jesus (Jn 6:44)
2. The Holy Spirit c_____ the sinner of sin (Jn 16:17,18), removing the veil over the heart (2 Cor 3:14-17).
3. The Son pays the ransom that sin demands by His d_____ (Matt 20:28; 1 Cor 15:3)

E. No matter how bad your circumstances, grace and peace is yours forever – Exclaim it!

1. He is forever your S_____ - grace!
2. He is forever your F_____ - peace!