

## ***Ephesians 1:1-2***

***Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.***

See the words GRACE and PEACE. Both the words and the sequence are important. We enjoy peace with God on the ground of His gracious ***Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God,*** (Rom. 5:1-2)

GRACE is the action of God's loving concern to win men and women back to fellowship with Himself; and this He has done "in Christ". Grace is unmerited favor. Grace is God's redemption at Christ's expense. Grace is everything God is, moving freely toward man to meet every need that he has.

**The first fruit of GRACE is PEACE, Romans 5:1-2**

***"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ;"***  
(Rom. 5:1)

From its Old Testament ancestry (Heb., shalom) this Greek word, Peace, (*Eirene*) takes on the distinctively Christian dress of an enrichment of life. It covers body, mind and spirit in union with God our Maker and Redeemer.

The force of unity is illustrated in this marvelous greeting: the regular Jewish greeting was 'Peace!' (shalom) Paul shows the force of unity in Christ in his salutation to the Church at Ephesus by replacing *chaire* by the similarly-sounding but richer greeting *Chairis* (GRACE) and using the Greek *EIRENE* for the Hebrew word *shalom*. With this linguistic tool he speaks and demonstrates the marvelous benefit of what it means to be in Christ.

**Paul believes in the possibility of peace.**

Can there be peace in our world? Can we be "joined together"? Can the disjointed, separated, and parted be brought together in Christ? Can the Lord Jesus Christ make a person whole through His indwelling presence? **Can man have peace with God and the peace of God?** One man said, Jesus is the answer, another asked, what is the question? I think the question is, Can there be peace in our world?

**Jesus is the answer!**

Peace is freedom from strife of any kind; freedom from guilt, and the presence of order and security.

Think of it: Peace in the family, freedom from war, agreement between contending parties, quiet, calm, serenity, peace of mind, at peace, in a state of quietness, silent, still, wonderful peace!

The peace of God surpasses the mind's attempt at full comprehension, (Phil. 4:7). To have peace with God is to have the peace of God. Peace is the tranquil state of the soul assured of its salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. The soul at peace fears nothing from God and is content with whatever its earthly lot may be.

A missionary was once asked, "What do you do? What is your job?" He replied, "I'm spreading the peace of God in the hearts of men." This is God's purpose. This was Paul's mission. This is our mission.

The idea of peace is prominent in Ephesians. The immediate source of peace is the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (Eph. 2:13-17)*

How does peace come? Paul tells us in the text. The threefold name for the Son of God gives us the key to peace. (See the text.) "Jesus" (Y--sus) is His given name, meaning "the Lord is salvation".

*"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21)*

**"Christ" is the Greek equivalent of Messiah or Anointed One, (Kristos).** It is the title that describes His role in fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament. This would not have been fully appreciated by the Gentiles, but the other title, Lord, (Kurios), was very familiar to them. It was commonly used by the Greeks for masters of slaves and for the emperor.

Here is the synopsis. Recognize Jesus as the imperial absolute Lord. Receive Him as Savior. Rejoice in the fact that He is the promised Messiah, the Christ, and you shall be delivered from war to peace.

**Look at the text again.** See the words GRACE and PEACE. Both the words and the sequence are important. We enjoy peace with God on the ground of His gracious

act of redemption in Christ. Paul explains in Romans 5:1-2;

***"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God," (Rom. 5:1-2)***

GRACE is the action of God's loving concern to win men and women back to fellowship with Himself; and this He has done "in Christ". Grace is unmerited favor. Grace is God's redemption at Christ's expense. Grace is everything God is, moving freely toward man to meet every need that he has.

The firstfruit of GRACE is PEACE,

***"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ;"***  
*(Rom. 5:1)*

From its Old Testament ancestry (Heb., shalom) this Greek word, Peace, (*Eirene*) takes on the distinctively Christian dress of an enrichment of life. It covers body, mind and spirit in union with God our Maker and Redeemer.

The force of unity is illustrated in this marvelous greeting: the regular Jewish greeting was 'Peace!' (shalom) Paul shows the force of unity in Christ in his salutation to the Church at Ephesus by replacing chaire by the similarly-sounding but richer greeting Chairis and using the Greek EIRENE for the Hebrew word shalom. With this linguistic tool he speaks and demonstrates the marvelous benefit of what it means to be in Christ.

### **Paul believes in the possibility of peace.**

Can there be peace in our world? Can we be "joined together"? Can the disjointed, separated, and parted be brought together in Christ? Can the Lord Jesus Christ make a person whole through His indwelling presence?

**Can man have peace with God and the peace of God?** One man said, Jesus is the answer, another asked, what is the question? I think the question is, Can there be peace in our world?

### **Jesus is the answer!**

Peace is freedom from strife of any kind; freedom from guilt, and the presence of order and security.

Think of it: Peace in the family, freedom from war, agreement between contending parties, quiet, calm, serenity, peace of mind, at peace, in a state of quietness, silent, still, wonderful peace!

The peace of God surpasses the mind's attempt at full comprehension, (Phil. 4:7). To have peace with God is to have the peace of God. Peace is the tranquil state of the soul assured of its salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. The soul at peace fears nothing from God and is content with whatever its earthly lot may be.

A missionary was once asked, "What do you do? What is your job?" He replied, "I'm spreading the peace of God in the hearts of men." This is God's purpose. This was Paul's mission. This is our mission.

The idea of peace is prominent in Ephesians. The immediate source of peace is the Lord Jesus Christ.

***"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (Eph. 2:13-17)***

How does peace come? Paul tells us in the text. The threefold name for the Son of God gives us the key to peace. (See the text.) "Jesus" (Y~--sus) is His given name, meaning "the Lord is salvation".

***"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21)***

**"Christ" is the Greek equivalent of Messiah or Anointed One, (Kristos).** It is the title that describes His role in fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament. This would not have been fully appreciated by the Gentiles, but the other title, Lord, (Kurios), was very familiar to them. It was commonly used by the Greeks for masters of slaves and for the emperor.

Here is the synopsis. Recognize Jesus as the imperial absolute Lord. Receive Him as Savior. Rejoice in the fact that He is the promised Messiah, the Christ, and you shall be delivered from war to peace.