

PAUL'S FAREWELL
(2 Thessalonians 3:16-18)

I. Peace from the Lord.

- A. Peace means a state of untroubled, undisturbed, well-being.
 - 1. This is not the notion of peace between nations.
 - 2. That is tenuous at best in most cases.
- B. This type of peace only comes from the Lord.
 - 1. It was prophesied that Jesus would guide us into peace (Luke 1:78-79).
 - 2. The angels said He would bring peace (Luke 2:14).
 - 3. This is what Jesus came preaching (Acts 10:36; Ephesians 2:17).
 - 4. It is a peace that the world simply can't give (John 14:27).
 - 5. This peace conquers in spite of tribulation (John 16:33).
 - 6. This peace involves peace with God (Romans 5:1).
 - 7. It involves a kingdom in which peace reigns (Romans 14:17).
 - 8. It is a peace that brings together those that are at odds (Ephesians 2:14-18).
- C. The Lord provides this peace to mankind in several ways.
 - 1. First and foremost is through His death on the cross.
 - a. This reconciled Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:15-16).
 - b. Most importantly, it reconciled man to God (Colossians 1:20-22).
 - 2. Through our faith in Him and the justification that brings (Romans 15:13; 5:1).
 - 3. We get peace when in harmony with brethren (2 Corinthians 13:11).
 - 4. We get peace when we cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22).
 - 5. Prayer brings about peace.
 - a. It produces peace in the inner man (Philippians 4:6-7).
 - b. It can produce peace in our communities (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
 - 6. By following the example of Paul (Philippians 14:19).
 - 7. Through pursuing peace.
 - a. Paul told the Romans to do this (Romans 14:19).
 - b. He told Timothy to do this as well (2 Timothy 2:22).

- c. It was commanded to Hebrew Christians (Hebrews 12:14).
 - d. Peter also commanded the Christians in Asia Minor to do this (1 Peter 3:10-11).
- D. Jesus wants us to have peace and died to make it possible.
 - 1. Everyone who follows Him has it.
 - 2. We are to be about being found by Jesus in peace at our death or His return (2 Peter 3:14).
 - 3. We do this by allowing His peace to rule in our hearts (Colossians 3:15).

II. **Grace from the Lord.**

- A. After Paul tells us that He wrote these last few verses with his own hand he prays for one more blessing for them.
- B. Paul prayed for the grace that the Lord provides.
 - 1. It was prophesied that Jesus would bring grace (1 Peter 1:10-11).
 - 2. Jesus came to earth full of grace (John 1:14-17).
 - 3. The apostles preached the gospel of grace (Acts 20:24).
 - a. They preached how God justifies in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; 2:4-9).
 - b. They described how we can stand in God's grace (Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 5:12).
 - 4. Christ gives everlasting consolation and good hope through His grace (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).
 - 5. Paul commended souls to the word of God's grace (Acts 20:32).
- C. Just as with peace, the Lord provides His grace in numerous ways.
 - 1. By obeying the gospel of grace (Hebrews 5:9).
 - a. This means obeying the pattern delivered to us that frees from sin (Romans 6:17).
 - b. We do that through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-7).
 - 2. We grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18).
 - a. Grace is multiplied as we grow in knowledge of Jesus (2 Peter 1:2, 5-8).
 - b. Grace is received through prayer (Hebrews 4:14-16).
 - c. Grace is given to the humble (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).
 - 3. We receive grace by making sure it hasn't been given in vain.
 - a. God's grace is not available forever (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).

- b. We can fall short of God's grace (Hebrews 12:15).
 - c. We need to be away of the possibility of falling away (Galatians 5:4).
- D. How sad it would be to receive God's grace in vain.
- 1. Peter describes the state of one who has (2 Peter 2:20-22).
 - 2. We must strive to be strong in the grace of God (2 Timothy 2:1).

From a sermon by Mark Copeland