



To you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

If someone were to come up to you and say, – or you were to receive a letter beginning with:

“Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,” what would you think?

A curious, perhaps intriguing greeting?

Did you know that this greeting comes to us in the form of personal letters, as recorded in the Bible, by several renowned early church leaders. There was Peter, John, Jude, James and especially Paul; men who wrote numerous letters to various churches and younger disciples. And when we examine these letters, this common, familiar greeting was used by all men!

Paul, for example, was a travelling evangelist and he often greeted the faithful with:

*“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”* (2 Corinthians 1:2)

Even when he signed off his letters, for example, to the faithful living in Ephesus, he wrote:

*“Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”* (Eph 6:23-24)

Listen to how Peter similarly greeted those he wrote to, saying:

*“To God’s elect, sojourners in A the world, scattered throughout ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”* (1 Peter 1:1-2)

John also conveys the same warm, pastoral affection when he wrote:

*“To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come...”* (Revelation 1:4)

Those timeless greetings convey so much – given not only to the first century Christians, but their intent and appeal reach across the ages to us today.

Did you notice the priority of grace first, and then peace? It’s interesting that, in most cases, again and again these two appear in just that order.

It’s God’s grace which brings about peace. I suppose, we could then say, that without grace there can be no real peace.

Now Luke was yet another early church missionary, and in his testimony he recorded the chorus of angels heralding the birth of Jesus. Listen to what the angels sang:

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.”* (Luke 2:14)

His favour... God’s Grace is His unmerited favour towards us – helping us to change, to turn to Him. It’s precisely what gives us peace! In our troubled world, perhaps more than ever before, there is a genuine need for Grace and Peace.

For the MessageWeek team, I’m John Klassek.

May you, personally experience, in abundance, the words conveyed from scripture:

“Grace and Peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ”.

