

Series: Ephesians: Our Life In Christ

Sermon: Greetings!

Passage: Ephesians 1:1-2

Illustration:

Need: As Christians, saints, believers, whether on fire or in need of stern correction, Grace and Peace are ours every moment of every day from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Ephesians Background

- Author - Paul the Apostle
- Date - AD 60-62
- Location - Rome under house arrest (Acts 28:30-31). Also wrote Philippians, Colossians, & Philemon.
- Genre - Letter of typical Greco-Roman style; epistle.
- Recipients - Christians in the city of Ephesus; could have been intended to be a circular letter.
- Purpose - Encouragement. To define our lives "in Christ" and call us to live Christ-fueled lives.

YouVersion insert 1:1-2 here

II. The Sender

- "an apostle" - sent one; official delegate owned and sent by Jesus to propagate His message.
- "by the will of God" - his conversion & call were both because of the desire, wish, will, & resolve of God.

III. The Recipients

- "To the saints" - set apart for God, made holy, having no holiness of their own.
- "faithful in Christ" - believers who have remained faithful to Jesus.

IV. The Greeting

- This is the most common greeting that Paul uses - 9 out of 13 times. The other 4 are very similar.
- "Grace to you" - the normal Greek greeting was "rejoice," (*chaire*). Paul employed a similar sounding word, *charis* (grace) to say "God's grace (favor undeserved) to you!"
- "peace (to you)" - *Shalom* was the most common Hebrew greeting. It refers to the peace that YAHWEH has promised that all Hebrews hoped for and awaited, most specifically in anticipation of Messiah.
- Paul connects the Grace that God extends with the Peace that He has promised and supplied in the person & work of Messiah Jesus!
- "from God our Father" - grace and peace come from "our" Father God not some distant deity.
- "(from) the Lord Jesus Christ" - on the same plain as God the Father sits God the Son. Only Jesus is "Lord" (having power and authority). Not Zeus (Jupiter), Not Artemis (Diana), Not Caesar. Only Christ!

V. Saints, believers in Winter Haven, God's Grace and Peace are yours today in Jesus!

- For what ever is broken - God's grace and peace are yours in Jesus!
- For what ever has you frustrated - God's grace and peace are yours in Jesus!
- For whatever is unknown - God's grace and peace are yours in Jesus!
- For whatever has you overwhelmed - God's grace and peace are yours in Jesus!
- For whatever decision you must make - God's grace and peace are yours in Jesus!
- For whatever.... - God's grace and peace are yours in Jesus!