

2 Thessalonians 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Analysis

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen—Paul's standard closing: **The grace** (hē charis, ἡ χάρις) **of our Lord Jesus Christ** (tou Kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou, τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ) **be with you all** (meta pantōn hymas, μετὰ πάντων ὑμᾶς). Grace brackets the letter (1:2, 3:18)—unmerited favor is both greeting and benediction.

Amen (amēn, ἀμήν, 'so be it')—affirming prayer. Everything—perseverance through persecution, resisting deception, church discipline, productive labor—depends on grace. Christ's undeserved favor enables all Christian living. The letter began with grace, taught about grace's outworking, and concludes with grace's benediction. Grace is sufficient for every command.

Historical Context

Ancient letters typically ended with health wishes or generic blessings. Paul Christianizes the form, making grace-wish the closing. This became standard Christian epistolary form, copied by later church fathers. Grace replaced generic well-wishing with specific invocation of Christ's favor.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How specifically do you need Christ's grace to enable obedience to this letter's commands?
2. What does it mean for grace to 'be with you'—how do you experience Christ's enabling favor?
3. Why does Paul emphasize 'all'—what does this reveal about grace's availability?

Interlinear Text

ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ
G3588 **The grace** G3588 **Lord** **of our** **Jesus** **Christ** **be with**
G5485 G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547 G3326

πάντων ὑμῶν ἀμήν
all **you** **Amen**
G3956 G5216 G281

Additional Cross-References

Romans 16:20 (Grace): And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.