

2 Timothy 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you.
Amen.

Analysis

The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen. Paul concludes with benediction. "The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit" (Ho kyrios meta tou pneumatos sou, Ὁ κύριος μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματός σου). This isn't mere polite closing but theological affirmation and pastoral blessing. "With thy spirit" (meta tou pneumatos sou, μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματός σου) indicates inner being, true self—Paul prays Christ would be intimately present with Timothy's deepest person, strengthening, guiding, encouraging. This echoes Jesus's promise: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

"Grace be with you" (Hē charis meth' hymōn, Ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν). The shift from singular (thy) to plural (you) suggests Paul addresses not only Timothy but the Ephesian church who would hear this letter read. Charis (χάρις) means grace—unmerited favor, divine enablement, God's empowering presence. Everything needed for faithful Christian living comes from grace. "Amen" (Amēn, Ἀμήν) means truly, certainly—affirming the blessing.

This simple benediction perfectly concludes Paul's final letter. He commends Timothy and the church to Christ's presence and sustaining grace—the only resources sufficient for trials ahead. Paul can die peacefully, knowing the Lord will care for His people. The letter ends as it began (1:2): with grace. Grace initiated Paul's ministry, sustained him through suffering, and remained his final word. This is Christianity's essence: everything is grace—salvation, sanctification, service, suffering, glorification—all provided by God's unmerited favor through Christ. As

Paul leaves the stage, he entrusts future to grace, confident that the same grace that carried him will carry those remaining.

Historical Context

This concludes Paul's final canonical letter. Shortly after writing, he was executed by beheading on Ostian Way outside Rome. His martyrdom, far from ending his influence, multiplied it exponentially. His letters continued circulating, shaping Christianity's theology and practice. The benediction proved true: Christ was with Timothy's spirit, grace sustained the churches, and the gospel Paul faithfully proclaimed conquered the empire that killed him. Within centuries, Christianity became Rome's official religion. Paul lost his life but won his cause. The benediction remains relevant: believers still need Christ's presence and sustaining grace. Paul's final words continue blessing readers two millennia later.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you consciously depend on Christ's presence with your spirit and His sustaining grace, or do you rely on self-effort?
2. How can this benediction—Christ with you, grace upon you—shape your prayers for yourself and others?
3. What legacy will your life leave—and like Paul, can you face death peacefully, confident that Christ and His grace will sustain those you leave behind?

Interlinear Text

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|-------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------|---------------|------------|
| Ὁ | κύριος | Ἰησοῦς | Χριστὸς | μεθ' | τοῦ | πνεύματος | σου |
| G3588 | The Lord | Jesus | Christ | be with | G3588 | spirit | thy |
| | G2962 | G2424 | G5547 | G3326 | | G4151 | G4675 |
| ἡ | χάρις | μεθ' | ὑμῶν | ἀμήν | | | |
| G3588 | Grace | be with | you | Amen | | | |
| | G5485 | G3326 | G5216 | G281 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Philemon 1:25 (Grace): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Galatians 6:18 (Grace): Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Colossians 4:18 (Grace): The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Romans 1:7 (Grace): To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22:21 (Grace): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.