

Colossians 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Analysis

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The double designation hagiois kai pistois adelphois (ἀγίοις καὶ πιστοῖς ἀδελφοῖς, "holy ones and faithful brothers") emphasizes both positional sanctity and practical faithfulness. "Saints" denotes not earned holiness but God's setting apart of believers through union with Christ—directly countering any teaching of spiritual elitism through secret knowledge.

The phrase en Christō (ἐν Χριστῷ, "in Christ") appears repeatedly in Colossians as Paul's fundamental answer to heresy: all spiritual fullness resides in Christ, requiring no mystical additions. The greeting pairs charis (χάρις, "grace") with eirēnē (εἰρήνη, "peace"), Greek and Hebrew blessings united. Crucially, both emanate equally "from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," placing Christ on identical divine footing with the Father.

Historical Context

The Colossian heresy combined Jewish legalism, Greek philosophy, and proto-Gnostic mysticism, teaching that Christ alone was insufficient for spiritual maturity. This syncretistic mixture required angel worship, visionary experiences, and ascetic practices as supplements to faith. Paul's greeting establishes equality before addressing these false mediators.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does your identity as a "saint in Christ" affect daily self-perception and decision-making?
2. Where do you seek peace beyond Christ—in circumstances, achievements, or experiences?
3. What does it mean practically that grace and peace flow equally from Father and Son?

Interlinear Text

τοῖς ἐν Κολασσαῖς ἀγίοις καὶ πιστοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ἐν
G3588 in Colosse To the saints and faithful brethren in
G1722 G2857 G40 G2532 G4103 G80 G1722

Χριστοῦ χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς
Christ Grace be unto you and peace from God Father
G5547 G5485 G5213 G2532 G1515 G575 G2316 G3962

ἡμῶν καὶ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
our and the Lord Jesus Christ
G2257 G2532 G2962 G2424 G5547

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 1:2 (Grace): Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

Ephesians 1:1 (Faith): Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

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.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (Holy): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Revelation 1:4 (Grace): John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Galatians 1:3 (Grace): Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 1:2 (Grace): Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Psalms 16:3 (Holy): But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

Ephesians 6:21 (Faith): But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

1 Corinthians 4:17 (Faith): For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.