

Colossians 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds.
Grace be with you. Amen.

Analysis

The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen. Paul concludes with personal signature. "The salutation by the hand of me Paul" (ho aspasmos tē emē cheiri Paulou, ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ Παύλου) indicates Paul personally wrote this closing, authenticating the letter (amanuensis likely wrote the body). "Remember my bonds" (mnēmoneuete mou tōn desmōn, μνημονεύετε μου τῶν δεσμῶν) requests ongoing prayer and concern for his imprisonment.

"Grace be with you" (hē charis meth' hymōn, ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν) pronounces benediction—appropriate conclusion for letter beginning with grace (1:2) and emphasizing Christ's sufficiency throughout. "Amen" (amēn, ἀμήν, "truly/so be it") seals the letter with affirmation. Grace opened and closes Paul's message: believers live, stand, and persevere by grace alone, through Christ alone, for God's glory alone.

Historical Context

Ancient letters often concluded with personal authentication to prevent forgeries (2 Thessalonians 3:17). Paul's personal signature validated this letter's apostolic authority. His mention of bonds reminds readers of his suffering for gospel, adding weight to his exhortations and modeling faithful endurance under persecution. The grace benediction became standard Christian closing, distinguishing Christian correspondence from conventional Greco-Roman letters.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you remember and pray for persecuted Christians facing imprisonment for faith?
2. Does grace frame your Christian experience—both beginning and ongoing life source?
3. What closing thoughts from Colossians challenge or encourage you most as you conclude studying this epistle?

Interlinear Text

Ο ἀσπασμὸς τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ Παύλου μνημονεύετέ
G3588 The salutation G3588 of me by the hand Paul Remember
G783 G1699 G5495 G3972 G3421

μου τῶν δεσμῶν ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν ἀμήν
my G3588 bonds G3588 Grace G5485 be with G3326 you G5216 Amen
G3450 G1199 G5485 G3326 G5216 G281

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:3 (Parallel theme): Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

1 Corinthians 16:21 (References Paul): The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand.

1 Timothy 6:21 (Grace): Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:22 (Grace): The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Hebrews 13:25 (Grace): Grace be with you all. Amen.

Titus 3:15 (Grace): All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:8 (Parallel theme): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Philippians 1:7 (Grace): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

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