

Galatians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Analysis

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Standard Pauline greeting combining Greek *charis* (χάρις, "grace") and Hebrew *shalom* ("peace"), transformed with theological meaning. Grace refers to God's unmerited favor—Galatians' central theme—while peace (*eirēnē*, εἰρήνη) denotes reconciliation with God resulting from grace.

Order is significant: grace precedes and produces peace. No peace with God without first receiving His grace. This directly counters the Judaizers' teaching that peace comes through law-keeping. The phrase "from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ" presents a single source with Father and Son in unity—the Greek construction links both, affirming Christ's deity and equality with the Father.

The title "Lord" (*kyrios*, κύριος) was used for Yahweh in the Septuagint, asserting Christ's divine identity. Calling Jesus *kyrios* in this Roman imperial context, where emperors claimed divine honors, was both theologically profound and politically subversive.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman letters typically began with *chairein* ("greetings"), Jewish letters with *shalom*. Paul's Christian adaptation reflects multicultural early Christianity and the gospel's power to unite Jew and Gentile. "Grace" was countercultural in a merit-based society dominated by patron-client relationships, honor-shame

dynamics, and works-righteousness. Rome operated on reciprocity—favours given expecting return. Jewish covenantal nomism emphasized Torah faithfulness. Paul's emphasis on free grace challenged both systems.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you functionally trust in grace plus something else (works, morality, religious performance) rather than grace alone?
2. Where in your life do you lack peace because you haven't fully received and rested in God's grace?
3. What daily decisions reveal whether you truly confess Jesus as Lord or merely give Him lip service?

Interlinear Text

χάρις	ὕμῃν	καὶ	εἰρήνη	ἀπὸ	θεοῦ	πατρὸς	καὶ	κυρίου
Grace	be to you	and	peace	from	God	the Father	and	Lord
G5485	G5213	G2532	G1515	G575	G2316	G3962	G2532	G2962

ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ
from our	Jesus	Christ
G2257	G2424	G5547

Additional Cross-References

2 John 1:3 (Grace): Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Grace): The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Colossians 1:2 (Grace): 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.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (Grace): Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:2 (Grace): Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2 (Grace): Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

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