

Philippians 4:23

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 (Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν, Hē charis tou kyriou Iēsou Christou meta tou pneumatōs hymōn)—Hē charis ("the grace")—unmerited favor, gospel's essence. Tou kyriou Iēsou Christou ("of the Lord Jesus Christ")—full title emphasizes deity and messiahship. Meta tou pneumatōs hymōn ("with your spirit")—meta ("with") conveys presence and fellowship. Pneuma ("spirit") is human spirit, innermost self. Paul's benediction wishes grace's abiding presence in their inner lives. This is standard Pauline closing (Gal 6:18; Philem 25; cf. Rom 16:20), but here particularly fitting: Philippians is Paul's most joyful, affectionate letter, begun with grace (1:2) and ended with grace (4:23). Grace brackets the epistle—beginning, sustaining, concluding Christian life.

Historical Context

Ancient letters closed with health-wishes to gods. Paul Christianizes this: final word is grace from Jesus Christ. 'With your spirit' echoes early Christian benedictions (Gal 6:18; 2 Tim 4:22; Philem 25). Grace is both gift and Person—Christ Himself dwelling with believers' spirits. Philippians opened with grace and peace (1:2) and closes with grace—framing epistle in gospel's heart. Paul's prison epistle, paradoxically joyful despite chains, testifies that grace sustains in all circumstances. The epistle's message: joy rooted in Christ transcends circumstances through grace.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does closing with 'grace' (charis) summarize Philippians' message?
2. What does it mean for Christ's grace to be 'with your spirit' (meta tou pneumatos)—internal presence?
3. How has Philippians' teaching on joy, Christ, humility, and contentment revealed grace in your life?

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	ὕμῶν	ἀμην					
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.

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.