

Romans 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

Paul's greeting identifies the recipients: *pasin tois ousin en Rhōmē agapētois theou* (πᾶσιν τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Ῥώμῃ ἀγαπητοῖς θεοῦ, 'to all who are in Rome, beloved of God'). *Agapētois theou* (beloved of God) is staggering—those who were once enemies (Romans 5:10) are now the objects of divine love, the same love God has for His Son (John 17:23). This is not sentimental affection but covenantal commitment—*agapē* (ἀγάπη), self-sacrificing love demonstrated at the cross.

Klētois hagiois (κλητοῖς ἀγίοις, 'called saints') is better translated 'called to be holy ones.' *Hagiois* (holy ones/saints) applies to all believers, not a special class. Holiness is both positional (set apart to God) and progressive (growing in sanctification). The benediction *charis humin kai eirēnē* (χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη, 'grace to you and peace') combines Greek (*charis*) and Hebrew (*shalom*, peace) greetings. *Eirēnē* is not merely absence of conflict but wholeness, reconciliation with God (Romans 5:1), and harmonious relationships. The dual source *apo theou patros hēmōn kai kuriou Iēsou Christou* (from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ) places Father and Son on equal footing, a profound Trinitarian affirmation.

Historical Context

Writing to believers in the capital of an empire that claimed divine status for Caesar, Paul's greeting was subversive. True grace and peace flow not from Rome's Pax Romana (enforced by military might) but from God the Father and the Lord (κύριος) Jesus Christ—a direct challenge to Caesar's lordship. Christians were called 'holy ones,' set apart from the pagan immorality and emperor worship saturating Roman culture.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does being 'beloved of God' (ἀγαπητοί) affect your sense of worth, especially when you fail or face rejection?
2. What does it mean practically to be 'called saints' (κλητοὶ ἄγιοι)—set apart—in your workplace, neighborhood, and relationships?
3. Where do you seek grace and peace from sources other than 'God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ'?

Interlinear Text

πᾶσιν τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Ἱῶμῃ ἀγαπητοῖς θεοῦ κλητοῖς
To all that be in Rome beloved God called
G3956 G3588 G5607 G1722 G4516 G27 G2316 G2822

ἀγίοις χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν
to be saints Grace to you and peace from God our Father our
G40 G5485 G5213 G2532 G1515 G575 G2316 G3962 G2257

καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
and the Lord Jesus Christ
G2532 G2962 G2424 G5547

Additional Cross-References

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.

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

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.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 (Grace): Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (Peace): Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

2 Thessalonians 3:18 (Grace): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

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

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.

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

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

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