

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

First RPC Durham

I. A Prayer for Peace (v 16).**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) The prayer for peace**
 - a) What is peace?**
 - i.** Something objective, as a state (Rom 5:1)
 - ii.** Something subjective, as a sensible experience
 - b) Why do we need to pray for peace?**
 - i.** Because we do not have it by nature (Rom 5:10).
 - ii.** Because we do not procure it by ourselves.
 - iii.** Because we have enemies who would desire us not to have peace.
- 2) The giver of peace — *The Lord peace Himself give you peace***
 - a) There are many false ways we search for peace.**
 - i.** Stirring up peace on the basis of our own strength and works.
 - ii.** Relying upon emotion rather than truth.
 - iii.** By looking to earthly pleasures rather than heavenly promises. (Rom 8:6)
 - b) Why does the Lord give peace?**
 - i.** Because it is His nature!
 - ii.** Use, Know God rightly and be comforted in knowing God (Phil 3:10; Isa 40:9).
- 3) The recipients of peace**
- 4) The steadfastness of peace**
- 5) The variety of peace**
 - a) We have peace with God**
 - b) We are to have peace among Church (Rom 14:19)**
 - c) We can to have peace in our homes (Psa 118:15a)**
 - d) Even in the world, we may have a common peace (1 Tim 2:2b)**
- 6) How we receive this peace (Jn 14:27; Heb 12:25)**

B. Answering Objections to the Text

- 1) Objection 1: How can I have peace when there is so much going in the world, or in my life, that would fill me with anxiety? (Jn 16:33; Eph 6:16; Psa 45:5).**

- 2) Objection 2: But I do not deserve peace! (Heb 12:11)**

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Our desire should be to have peace.**
- 2) Our prayer should be to have peace (Phil 4:6-7)**
- 3) Our pursuit should be to obtain peace (Isa 26:3)**
- 4) Our confidence should be that the Lord will give peace, even when we have to wrestle and wait for the Lord to grant it (Lk 11:5-8)**
- 5) Be regular in giving thanks (Col 3:15)**

II. An Assurance of Apostolic Care (v 17).**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) The assurance of apostolic authority (Romans 16:22; Gal 6:11; 2 Cor 12:7)**
- 2) The assurance of pastoral care (Jn 10:16)**

B. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to have confidence in and be obedient to the Scriptures (Psa 119:165)**
- 2) We are to receive the godly shepherding of our elders (Heb 13:17)**

III. A Benediction of Grace (v 18).

- A. Exposition of the Text — *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.* (Heidelberg Catechism 129)**
- B. Answering Objections to the Text**
 - 1) Objection 1: How can the conviction and preaching of the Law be of grace? (Psa 141:5)**
 - 2) Objection 2: Is there grace for me also?**
- C. Uses from the Text**
 - 1) Make diligent use in means of grace (Col 3:16; Num 6:24-26).**
 - 2) Receive the grace of Jesus Christ.**
 - 3) Let us confess of the promises of God with the *AMEN* of our hearts (Phil 2:16).**
 - 4) Live in light of God's promises. (2 Cor 7:1)**