

2nd Thessalonians

Conclusion [3:16-18]

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 - Now may the Lord of Peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance.
Αὐτὸς δὲ ὁ κύριος τῆς εἰρήνης δώῃ ὑμῖν τὴν εἰρήνην διὰ παντὸς ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ.
 - The phrase “may ... grant” is the optative of **δίδωμι** (didōmi) which means “give”, “bestow” or “grant”.
 - This word means to give as an expression of generosity.
 - The optative is the mood of hopefulness.
 - The phrase “the Lord of peace” is a title for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - We will capitalize the word “peace” to indicate this.
 - The word “Himself” is given as emphasis here to highlight His role in this activity.
 - The word “continually” is literally “through all”.
 - This is a Greek idiom which means “always” [Acts 2:25].
 - This idiom can also mean “constantly” [Mark 5:5] or “continually” [Matt 18:10; Luke 24:53] as it does here.
 - The word “peace” is from **εἰρήνη** (eirēnē) which means “peace” or “harmony”.
 - This word can describe the state of peace within someone’s soul or harmony in personal relationships.
 - Given that the passage that precedes this verse discusses undisciplined believers, it is most likely that Paul is hopeful for unity among the believers at the Thessalonian church.
 - This unity would help the individual believers have inner peace.
 - The word “circumstance” is from **τρόπος** (tropos) which means “manner” or “way”.
 - This word can also refer to the circumstances under which someone lives.
 - The Lord be with you all!
ὁ κύριος μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.
 - The phrase “The Lord be with you all!” was a commonly used benediction.
 - Paul does not mean to say that the Lord is not with us at times.
 - Instead, he is expressing his desire that all the believers in Thessalonica will enjoy true fellowship with Christ which will lead to the kind of unity he is hoping for.
 - I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.
Ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ Παύλου, ὃ ἐστὶν σημεῖον ἐν πάσῃ ἐπιστολῇ· οὕτως γράφω.
 - Paul typically used an amanuensis to write his letters [Rom 16:22], although he would often write part of the letter himself [Col 4:18] so people would know the letter was truly from him.
 - His handwriting was distinct, so there would be no doubt.

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.
 - Paul concludes this letter with almost the exact phrase as in the first letter to the Thessalonians [1 Thess 5:28].
 - The addition of the word “all” is probably another indication of Paul’s desire for unity among the believers in Thessalonica.
 - Paul often used the phrase “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ” in closing his letters [1 Cor 16:23; 2 Cor 13:14; Gal 6:18; Phil 4:23].
- Principles of 2nd Thessalonians 3:16-18
 - Our Lord is the God of peace [Rom 15:33; 16:20; 2 Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20].
 - The fallen angel (Allah) that the Muslims worship is about anything but peace.
 - The peace we have with God is through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [Rom 5:1].
 - When we walk in the Light, in fellowship with God, He fills us with joy and peace [Rom 15:13].
 - When we entrust all our worries and concerns to God in prayer, the very peace of God will protect our hearts [Phil 4:6-7].
 - This peace (contentment) does not depend upon the circumstances of life we may be facing [Phil 4:11-13].
 - God desires for us to have peace within our local church, not confusion [1 Cor 14:33].
 - While we walk in a worthy manner, we should be diligent to preserve the unity and peace in our local church [Eph 4:1-6].
 - When we do all things within the sphere of love, it fosters unity within the congregation [Col 3:14].
 - Jesus promised that He would always be with us [Matt 28:19-20].
 - However, the phrase “the Lord be with you” is used to wish the blessings of the Lord on others [Ruth 2:4; 1 Sam 17:37; 20:13; 1 Chr 22:11; 2 Tim 4:22; Phlm 25].
 - So is asking that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to be with others [Rom 16:24; Rev 22:21].
 - Anything and everything positive in our lives has come about because of the grace of God [1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor 9:8].
 - The truth of the gospel gives us some insight into God’s grace, but we ought to strive to fully understand grace [Col 1:3-8].
 - The grace of our Lord is more than abundant [1 Tim 1:14], and we have received grace upon grace [John 1:16].