

Grace and peace for our deepest needs

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18, p. 960

- Paul's 13 letters begin and end with "grace and peace" (1:2).
- Paul confirmed he personally wrote this letter (2 Thess. 3:17).

I. GRACE: CHRIST'S PROVISION FOR UNDESERVING SINNERS (2 THESSALONIANS 1:2; 3:18).

- A. God graciously forgives all sin of the believer (Romans 3:24).
 - Positional grace – forgiven once for all (Romans 5:1-2)
 - Relational grace – constantly forgiven to restore fellowship with Christ (1 John 1:7-9)
- B. God's grace motivates, teaches and empowers us to live holy (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Romans 6:14; 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12).
 - Christ graciously helps us when tempted (Hebrews 4:16).

II. PEACE: CHRIST'S ASSURANCE OF HIS LOVE, PRESENCE AND CONTROL (2 THESSALONIANS 1:2; 3:16).

- A. We have guaranteed eternal (positional) peace with God through faith in Christ (Romans 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).
- B. We can find peace in our anxieties as we pray because Christ is always present with us (John 14:27; 16:33; Philippians 4:6-9).