

Sermon Handout
The Peace of Christ
II Thessalonians 3:16-18

- I.** The meaning of “peace” v. 16
- a. Basic Text Is 9:5-7 (**Note:** “the Lord of Peace” in II Thess 3:16)
 - b. Two concepts of “peace” in St. Paul’s writing
 - Peace with God – Rom 5:1 (*cf.* Col 1:20; Eph 2:14)
 - The peace of God Phil 4:6-7
 - c. Peace through David’s descendants includes “prosperity” Is 9; Ps 132:11-16
 - i. II Sam 7:11-16 (God to David through Nathan)
 - ii. II Sam 23:1-5 (David to Solomon)
 - iii. I Kg 8:25 (Solomon referring to the promises made to David)
 - iv. See also Ps 2; 45; 72; 89 and 132
 - d. Jesus’ reign is David’s reign revived
 - Mt 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30; 21:9; 22:41-46 (*cf.* Ps 110:1)
- II.** The salutation by St. Paul’s own hand v. 17
- a. Same language in I Cor 16:21 & Col 4:18
 - “this is the way I write” *cf.* Gal 6:11
 - See the closing of other Pauline epistles
 - b. Here in II Thessalonians – contrary to “fake letters” in 2:2
 - Timothy was likely the amanuensis in this case (*cf.* Rom 16:22).
- III.** The phrase “you all” vv. 16, 18 (*cf.* the greeting in 1:2)
- a. “The Lord be with you all” v. 16
 - “peace continually, in every way”
 - Peace (prosperity) in the church is a gift of God
 - b. “The grace of Jesus be with you all” v. 18
 - i. Emphasizing the Lord’s presence and blessing on the whole congregation
 - ii. Repeated here to include those rebuked in vv. 12, 14-15
 - These are *brothers* who need correction vv. 6, 11, 15
 - c. St. Paul desires obedience and peace on all members of the church
 - i. Grace to amend their ways & follow Jesus v. 18
 - ii. Prosperity for a persevering congregation v. 16 (*cf.* v. 13)
 - iii. In accordance with Jesus command Mt 28:20 (*cf.* v 14)
 - Jesus’ “I will be with you always” is echoed in v. 16