

GRACE AND PEACE

...AND HOW IT AFFECTS OUR MINISTRY

"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."

~ Romans 1:7

1. Grace and Peace

- a. 'Grace' used over 100 times in Paul's recorded ministry
- b. Not Roman mystical grace, or Protestant covenantal grace, but free privilege.
- c. Paul begins all of his epistles with this salutation, contrary to Mal 1:1
- d. Paul was given a dispensation of the grace of God – Eph 3:2, 1 Cor 3:10
- e. God is now operating on terms of peace with the world – 2 Cor 5:19

2. God of Judgment and War

- a. Grace and peace is not always God's operation – ex. Battle Hymn (Rev 19:11-15)
- b. A God not dispensing grace – Exo 15:3, Lev 26:28, Josh 24:13-21, Isa 59:18
- c. A God who is not at peace – Isaiah 3:14, Nah 1:2, 3:1-6, Mal 2:3
- d. God of war – Isaiah 63:1-4, Joel 3:9-1
- e. Jesus' ministry begins with an appeal to Malachi (and Isaiah) Mark 1:2
- f. Peace on earth... but wait – Luke 2:14 vs. 12:51 → Luke 22:36

3. Judgment will Come

- a. The two God of love/war theory is not true – Rom 2:5-9, 2 Tim 4:1
- b. Christ will come again to judge and make war - 2Thes 1:5, 2:
- c. Jesus told his disciples to watch...the evil man said he would delay- Mat 24:42-51

4. But Now, Grace Be Unto You from God...

- a. But Paul says now is not the time, we are not destined to wrath - 1 Thess 5:1-10
- b. We are ambassadors of 'grace' and 'peace' from God and the Lord Jesus
- c. We are at peace with God by faith – Rom 5:1 (not under covenants of fury)
- d. We live peaceably with all men – Rom 12:18, 1 Tim 2:1-2
- e. We live graciously with all men (this is unilateral) 1 Cor 6:7, 1 Thes 5:15, Col 4:6

5. Our Grace Ministry

- a. We are to be faithful stewards of the mysteries – 1 Cor 4:1
- b. We do not fight flesh and blood, but the powers of darkness – 2 Cor 10:3
- c. Our battle is a doctrinal one over understanding in people's minds – 2 Cor 4:4
- d. This is not the president, congress, or any Muslim Imam – Eph 6:12
- e. We operate graciously with this sinful world, as representing of Christ - Titus 3:1
- f. We identify wrong, abstain from evil, pray for peace, and offer grace from God.