

Blessings From the Triune God (*Part 1*)

Revelation 1:4-8

Thought for the Day: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all at work to give us grace and peace in our daily lives. (John 14:27; 16:33; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

Tucked away inside this passage are twelve blessings from God available to us in our relationship with Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. The Salutation (1:4-8)

A. The Author (1:4a)

4 John...

B. The Recipients (1:4b)

...to the seven churches that are in Asia:

- Identified in 1:11. Seven actual churches located in the western half of Asia Minor.
- "While the seven churches were actual churches, they also represented all churches throughout all ages." (*Life Application Commentary Series*)

C. The Greeting (1:4c-5c)

Grace to you and peace...

Blessing #1: The blessing of God's grace

- Grace (*cháris*) – a common form of greeting among the Greeks.
 - Used only twice in Revelation. (1:4; 22:21 – a "Grace Sandwich")

Blessing #2: The blessing of God's peace

- "John begins by greeting the churches in Asia Minor with 'grace... and peace' (1:4). When sinners come to Christ through simple faith, accepting Him as God in the flesh whose death on the cross paid the penalty for their sins, they receive eternal salvation through *grace*—unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor. God doesn't save us because of any good thing we have done, will do, or even promise to do. God saves us solely by His grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is God's gift to undeserving sinners—we must never forget that! The result of this precious grace is a relationship that offers us true peace that overcomes any trials and tribulations the world can bring. What a reassuring greeting to the members of the persecuted church! Though John will later describe *judgment* and *distress* that will overtake wicked unbelievers in the future, God's own people receive *grace* and *peace*." (*Charles Swindoll, Revelation, pp. 21-22*)
- "[Peace be with you.] A common Hebrew greeting... The term speaks, in effect, of the salvation that Christ's redemptive work will achieve for his disciples—total well-being and inner rest of spirit, in fellowship with God. [Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have peace *with* God, and we receive peace *from* God.] All true peace is his gift... In its greetings of peace the world can only express a longing or wish. But Jesus' peace is real and present." (*NIV Study Bible, p. 1626*)

1. From God the Father

...from him who is and who was and who is to come...

Blessing #3: The blessing of God's eternal presence

- This title is found only in the book of Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5). God has always existed and always will—He is the eternally existing One.
- Heb. 13:5-6 – “I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”
- This is “an allusion to the divine name ‘I AM’ in Exodus 3:14... It indicates God’s complete transcendence over all history—past, present, and future. God is just as much in control of our unknown future and unnerving present as He is of our unpleasant past!” (*Swindoll, ibid, p. 22*)
- “God is eternally present and therefore able to help his people in any age, in any situation.” (*Life Application Commentary Series*)

2. From God the Holy Spirit

...and from the seven spirits who are before his throne...

Blessing #4: The blessing of the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives

- Some believe that this is a reference to angelic beings who have a position of great privilege before God’s throne. However, grace and peace always come from God elsewhere in Scripture, not from angels. (Psalm 121:1-2)
- “Whoever the seven Spirits of God are, they must be equal with God.” (*Mark Hitchcock, 101 Answers, p. 66*)
- It seems more appropriate that this greeting, which comes from God, the Father and God, the Son, would also be from God, the Holy Spirit, rather than from two members of the Trinity and then also from seven angels.
- “...likely represents the sevenfold ministry of the Spirit as depicted in Isaiah 11:2.” (*Charles Ryrie, Revelation, p. 18*)

CONCLUSION¹

Know: (vs. 4) Have you received the gifts of God’s grace (undeserved favor) and peace (peace with God and inner rest from God) through faith in Jesus Christ? (Ephesians 2:5, 8-9; Romans 3:23-24; 5:1, 10; 15:13 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

Know: (vs. 4) Do you seek to live in the light of God’s eternal presence? Are you “practicing His presence”? Do you truly believe “God is in control” of the circumstances of your life and always available to help you? (Hebrews 13:5-6; Isaiah 41:10)

Know: Do you know and believe the Holy Spirit dwells within you to bless and help you experience His grace and peace? Are you living in submission to and partnership with Him? Or, are you quenching or grieving the ministry of the Spirit in your life? (1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18)

¹ The three **spiritual priorities** of a follower of Jesus Christ: 1) To **know** and love the Lord by pursuing intimate fellowship with Him; 2) To **grow** and become like the Lord by cultivating Christlike character and conduct; and 3) To go and **show** the Lord to others through faithful and fruitful service.