

MESSAGE

Occasion : Doctrine Class
Date : January 17, 2017

TITLE : THE GRACE AND PEACE OF GOD IN THE EKKLESIA

Text/s :

Phil 1:2

2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

Heb 13:20-21

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

KJV

Bible reading :

1 Peter 2:5-10

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

KJV

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

In Lighthouse BBC, we value the importance of what we are as a New Testament Church or Ekklesia.

We believe that there is only one kind of church or Ekklesia - the kind that the Lord Jesus Christ founded and establish during His personal earthly ministry. The kind of which the Apostles themselves were the first members of.

Luke 6:13-16

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

KJV

1 Cor 12:28

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

KJV

Today we here stand as a Lighthouse BBC. And what we are is described by Paul...

Eph 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

KJV

Confusions start when some preachers and teachers today say that there are two kinds of churches: one is local and the other is universal. We strongly reject this view as a Lighthouse BBC. There is only one kind of Ekklesia. It is always local.

All the born again, saved people on earth do not comprise the New Testament Church. They comprise the family of God. But they are those have been saved, baptized and organized as a body to carry forth Christ's commands which stand as the true New Testament Churches.

There are two ways the word church is used in the New Testament: one is in reference to the body of believers in a specific place, the other is in reference to what the church is as an Institution.

Acts 20:28

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

KJV

Eph 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

KJV

1 Tim 3:15

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

KJV

The Apostle Paul's declaration both apply to the specific body of believers in Ephesus in particular and to the church that is institutional.

Eph 4:11-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
KJV

Eph 1:1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
KJV

- **The New Testament Church**

- **Its meaning**

An assembly of born again, Scripturally baptized believers, organized as a body of Christ, growing up together in Christ and carrying out the spirit and the letter of His Great Commission as found in Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8.

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KJV

- **Its Design**

1 Peter 2:5, 9-10

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

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Eph 5:25-27

25 ...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

KJV

- **Its Purpose**

Eph 3:21

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.
Amen.
KJV

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

KJV

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

KJV

Phil 2:14-16

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

KJV

- **The Grace and Peace of God are the Means by which the New Testament Church lives up according to its Design and Purpose.**

The Ekklesia stands as the one institution on earth that rises and serves as the monument of the Grace and the Peace of God. And not only does the Ekklesia stand as a monument, it operates, thrusts, builds, grows according to the grace and peace of God in it.

- To the churches in Rome

Rom 1:7

7 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.

KJV

- To the church at Corinth

1 Cor 1:2-3

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3 **Grace be unto you, and peace, from God** our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

2 Cor 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

2 **Grace be to you and peace from God** our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

- To the churches of Galatia

Gal 1:2-3

2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

3 **Grace be to you and peace from God** the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
KJV

- To the church at Ephesus

Eph 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 **Grace be to you, and peace, from God** our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
KJV

- To the church at Philippi

Phil 1:1-2

1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 **Grace be unto you, and peace, from God** our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
KJV

- To the church at Colosse

Col 1:2

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: **Grace be unto you, and peace, from God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

- To the church in Thessalonica

1 Thess 1:1

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: **Grace be unto you, and peace, from God** our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

2 Thess 1:1-2

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 **Grace unto you, and peace, from God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
KJV

- **To the churches in Asia**

Rev 1:4

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: **Grace be unto you, and peace**, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

KJV

So let us then appreciate the Grace and Peace of God in the Ekklesia

A) The Grace of God in the Ekklesia

- It is what was seen in the churches in Antioch and Macedonia

2 Cor 8:1

8 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;
KJV

Acts 11:22-23

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.
KJV

- **It is what came by Jesus Christ**

John 1:14-17

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
KJV

- **It is what is known by the churches.**

2 Cor 8:9

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
KJV

Col 1:3-6

3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

KJV

- **It is what comes abounding and exceeding in them**

2 Cor 9:8

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

KJV

2 Cor 9:14

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.
KJV

- **It is the means by which we grow and are built-up**

Rom 12:4-8

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
KJV

B) The Peace of God in the Ekklesia

o The peace that came from the Lord Jesus

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

KJV

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

KJV

John 20:19-21

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

o Christ is our peace

Eph 2:12-17

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

KJV

o It comes as a result of our justification

Rom 5:1

5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

KJV

o It is synonymous to being spiritual

Rom 8:6

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

KJV

- **The peace that made us one in Christ and with one another**

Eph 2:11-22

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 **For he is our peace, who hath made both one**, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

KJV

- **It is what we have by the Spirit of God**

Rom 8:6

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

KJV

Rom 14:17

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

KJV

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

KJV

1 Cor 2:12

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

KJV

2 Tim 1:7-8

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

KJV

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

KJV

○ **It is what keeps our hearts and minds**

Phil 4:7-9

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

KJV

○ **It is what rules in our hearts**

Col 3:15-17

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

KJV

○ **It is that which makes us perfect in every good work to do His will**

Heb 13:20-21

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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