



Authentic Blessing

Key idea:

God gives the blessing of grace, mercy, and peace to His people, the Church, through Jesus Christ.

Key text:

2 John 1-3

The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth — and not I only, but also all who know the truth — ² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

Key points:

1. The Church is God's Chosen people, which should give us great comfort!
2. Christians have been blessed with authentic grace in Christ, so that grace is the first and last word of the Christian life.
3. Christians are blessed with authentic mercy, the faithful, unchanging, steadfast covenant love of God for His people, so that mercy pursues and covers us throughout this life and into eternity.
4. Christians are blessed with authentic peace, the state of well-being that comes from being under the favor of God, no matter the outward circumstances.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. This letter is from "the elder" to "the chosen lady". Who is the elder, and who is the chosen lady? (For further information, see the After Hours video for this week).

3. Why does the Scripture speak of the Church and individual Christians as the elect or chosen people of God so often? How does God's election affect me personally? What practical effect should it have in my daily life?
4. Why did Christians so often greet each other with "Grace!"? Why is grace such a foundational concept and reality for the Christian life? How can I speak and receive grace with other believers?
5. When I hear the word "mercy" what comes to my mind? How would I define mercy? How did discovering that it was used to translate the Hebrew word hesed which means "steadfast, covenant love and faithfulness" change my thoughts about mercy?
6. How should God's steadfast, unchanging, covenant love and mercy affect me personally? What practical effect should it have in my daily life?
7. When I hear the word "peace" what comes to mind? How would I define peace? How does the Hebrew concept of shalom enlarge my understanding of peace?
8. A few weeks ago Scott taught on "peace" and said "Peace is not the subtraction of problems from life. Peace is the addition of Jesus Christ to meet those problems." Meditate on this for a moment. Do I experience God's peace, His shalom, this way? Why or why not?
9. Why did Jews greet one another with "shalom"? How can I speak and receive "peace" with other believers?
10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?

For further Study:

[Authentic](#) - A Series on 1 John

[The Blessing](#) (a teaching on the Aaronic Blessing)

Preview of next week: Authentic Truth (2 John 1-4)