

# The Benedictio in the Letters of the New Testament<sup>1</sup>

## The Letters of Paul

### Paul's Early Period of Writing

#### Galatians 6:18

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.  
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί· ἀμήν.

#### First Thessalonians 5:28

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μεθ' ὑμῶν.

#### Second Thessalonians 3:18

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.  
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

### Paul's Middle Period of Writing

#### First Corinthians 16:23-24

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.  
23 Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ μεθ' ὑμῶν. 24 Ἡ ἀγάπη μου μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

#### Second Corinthians (none)

#### Romans 16:24<sup>2</sup>

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. Amen.  
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν. Ἀμήν.

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<sup>1</sup>Although many of the prayers close with Ἀμήν, for those which do not the copying of the manuscripts of each one will include alternative readings that contain the Ἀμήν. The tendency over the centuries of copying the documents of the New Testament was to make each of the closing prayers end with the standard Ἀμήν regardless of whether the text they were copying contained it or not.

<sup>2</sup>UBS 4th rev ed *Greek New Testament*: {A} omit verse 24 P<sup>46</sup>,<sup>61</sup> & A B C 0150 81 (1506 omit 16.1-24) 1739 1962 2127 2464 it<sup>b</sup> vg<sup>ww, st</sup> cop<sup>sa, bo</sup> Origen<sup>lat</sup> // include verse 24 here: Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν. ἀμήν. (see 2 Th 3.18 and footnote 3) D (F G omit Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ) Ψ 6 365 424 1175 1241 1881 (1912 omit Χριστοῦ) (2200 μεθ' ὑμῶν for μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν) Byz [L] Lect it<sup>(ar, d, (f), (g), mon, o</sup> vg<sup>cl</sup> syr<sup>h</sup> slav Theodoret; (Pelagius) // include verse 24 following 16.27 P 33 104 256 263 436 459 1319 1573 1852 vg<sup>ms</sup> syr<sup>p</sup> cop<sup>boms</sup> arm eth geo<sup>1</sup> Ambrosiaster.

See also 16:20b: Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ μεθ' ὑμῶν.

UBS 4th rev ed *Greek New Testament*: {A} Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ μεθ' ὑμῶν P<sup>46</sup> & B 1881 // Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μεθ' ὑμῶν A C Ψ 0150 6 33 81 (104 459 1962 ὑμῶν. ἀμήν.) 256 263 365 424 436 1175 1241 1319 1573 1739 1852 1912 2127 2200 2464 Byz [L P] Lect (I 596 ὑμῶν. ἀμήν) it<sup>ar, b, (d2)</sup> vg syr<sup>p, h</sup> cop<sup>sa, bo</sup> arm eth geo (slav) Origen<sup>lat</sup> Chrysostom // omit (but see footnote 4) D F G it<sup>d\*, f, g, mon, o</sup> vg<sup>ms</sup> Ambrosiaster Sedulius-Scotus

Observations on 16:20 and 24:

“The shorter form of the benediction, as in the UBS4 text, appears to be more primitive. If Χριστοῦ were present originally, there seems to be no reason why a copyist would have omitted it, whereas the general tendency was for copyists to expand liturgical formulations. Several Western witnesses transfer the benediction to follow v. 23, which prevents the greetings of vv. 21–23 from having the appearance of being an afterthought. Other witnesses place v. 24 after 16:27 (that is, after the doxology), so that the letter ends with a benediction. If, however, it stood in this position originally, there is no good reason why it should have been moved to earlier in the letter.” [Roger L. Omanson and Bruce Manning Metzger, *A Textual Guide to the Greek New Testament: An Adaptation of Bruce M. Metzger's Textual Commentary for the Needs of Translators* (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006), 323.]

## Paul's Prison Letters

### Philemon 25

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.  
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν.

### Colossians 4:18c

Grace be with you.  
ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν.

### Ephesians 6:24

Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.  
ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων τῶν ἀγαπώντων τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐν ἀφθαρσίᾳ.

### Philippians 4:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.  
ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν.

## Paul's Pastoral Letters

### First Timothy 6:21b

Grace be with you  
Ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν.

### Second Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.  
Ὁ κύριος μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματός σου. ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν.

### Titus 3:15c

Grace be with all of you.  
ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

## The General Letters

### Hebrews 13:25

Grace be with all of you.  
ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

### James (none)

### First Peter 5:14b

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.  
εἰρήνη ὑμῖν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ.

### Second Peter (none)

### First John (none)

### Second John (none)

### Third John (none)

### Jude (none)