

## **Ephesians 6:23–24**

### **“Sustaining and Perfecting Grace for Those Who Have Begun by Grace”**

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Ephesians 6:23–24 is our portion this afternoon, let's pray. How we thank you oh God for your day. How we thank you for the means of your grace. How we thank you for giving your son. To be the captain of our salvation how we thank you for giving your spirit. Who will applies to us your son?

We ask that you would do so now. That you would cause these words of Christ. To dwell in us richly even as you have been doing by song many other words of Christ. Past ours so. Help us we pray help me as I. Explain and apply the text and help us all that we would be receptive to it.

Because it is you who have given this word and given this activity for us to do. As one of the ways by which you grow us in the grace of Christ and you grow us by the knowing of Christ, which we ask in the name of Christ amen. Fusion six beginning in verse 23.

Peace to the brethren and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

So as the apostles closing closing the letter here. He doesn't just wish them well, he pronounces a blessing on them. He pronounces a blessing on them that comes from God to those who he has joined to the Lord Jesus by faith those whom he has justified in the Lord Jesus by faith those whom he has seated in the heavenly places with the Lord Jesus by that faith.

He declares a blessing that is a blessing upon those in whom we can see that they are being saved. The blessing is peace to the brethren and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ grace. Be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, this is the first and great evidence of being a believer you love him because he first loved you and that in this, you know love both with reference to the father that he gave his son, he didn't hold him back he gave his son in that love and in this, you know, love in Jesus himself that he laid down his life for us.

To be that atoning sacrifice to be that propitiation the first evidence that God produces and those whom he brings to faith in Jesus is that we love him so verse 24 isn't talking about a meritorious condition, but it is talking about a universal condition grace be with all those who not because they have merited that grace that is a nonsense phrase, you don't merit grace not because they have merited that grace by loving the Lord Jesus Christ and sincerity.

But as a concurrent certainty with the fact that they love our Lord Jesus Christ and sincerity the logic is very similar to Romans 8:28 and following we know that all things work together for those who love God because the only way they came to love God in the first place is because they are the cold according to his purpose who loved them who chose them chosen that they would be glorified conformed to the image of his son, so if he predestined them to be conformed to him then of course, he justifies them and glorify.

Them and everything in between so we should not block at we should not hesitate at oh is this greeting for me do I really love Jesus sincerely enough that I can have this peace that I can have this love with faith that I can have this grace no you don't love Jesus sincerely enough.

Yet at all. But you do love him sincerely at all. And that is enough because the fact that you have actual love for Jesus in your heart is the work of the same spirit who gave you faith. So something that the apostle taught them already in the letter, right?

For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves and we could import that very same thing grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ and sincerity and that sincere love for him not of yourselves. The fact that you love him the fact that you're paying by not loving him enough has been produced by the same grace in which he has created you new.

For we are his workmanship. That none of yourselves that no man. Should boast for we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works. What he's saying here is he doesn't just create you in Christ. Jesus for good works. He's sustained you in Christ. Jesus for good works.

He grows you in Christ. Jesus for good works. He gives you everything that you need in Christ. Jesus for those good works. So we don't just want to believe we want to love him. Peace be to the brethren and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We know that God loves us. He's given us G. Jesus one of the things that bothers us the most is that we don't love him as much as we ought and when He says love with faith, he's telling us which way the love is going. This is love for him.

We believe in him. He doesn't believe in us. So when he says love with faith, he's pronouncing this marvelous blessing this certain blessing that God will add to the faith that he has given us as a gift. Love for himself. Which he also gives us as a gift. For you and I who ache that we that we would love the Lord Jesus more more consistently more zealously more obediently.

This is a wonderful blessing a wonderful promise that God himself is the one who gives us the love that we want to have for him. And so he says peace to the brethren he uses the word brethren here, these are of course brothers in the Lord but there's two kinds of peace that could be meant and probably both kinds of peace are meant at the beginning of our verse because you remember in the second half of chapter two

how he was talking about how we're reconciled to one another.

And he said the way that we come to be reconciled to one another is because we've both been reconciled to the same God over against the same guilt and alienation and deserved. We've both been reconciled to God with him that ought to have been our state outside of Christ but he's brought us to himself he's brought us near in Christ he's atoned for our guilt he's wiped out the wrath he's given us the relationship as heirs and citizens and family members adopted children of God in Christ and by giving each of us that reconciliation that peace with him that's how he gives us peace with one another.

The peace that we have with one another as brethren is a piece that comes out of the peace that we have from God and as we consider that peace that he is blessing us with blessing the effusions and all who love all verse 24 all who love the Lord Jesus with a with an actual love that the Holy Spirit has produced in us and as he promises that love with faith, he's promised.

Not just to those who give. Character or moral or emotional evidence of having been saved grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ and sincerity but he's also blessing those who give theological evidence of being saved from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ that Jesus Christ is every bit as much the Son is every bit as much the source of this peace the source of this love with faith the source of this.

Grace and verse 24 as the father is because he is very God a very God you hear the apostle Paul agreeing with the apostle John here as you read that letter of first John and you've got these evidences the love evidence that we love God and we love the brethren and you have here love for God and peace with the brethren you've got the moral evidence that we the because we love him we keep his commandments and you've got the theological evidence you confess that Jesus Christ is God who came in the flesh.

To die for us and so the apostle Paul was bringing these all out now not so much as a test and it's a test for the believer to pass in first John as he says in chapter 5 that he has written these things so that we may know that we have believed he didn't give us the test so that we could have crises of faith and badger ourselves with whether or not we're doing well enough in those areas but here it's even even more a pronouncement of blessing.

It's God who is convinced you. That Jesus Christ as God in the flesh and is the source of all goodness every bit as much as his father is. It's God who has given you love for the Lord Jesus Christ and sincerity. So he gives us this peace with Himself.

When you talk about peace with God, it's all of God is for all that we need Him to be. The concept of course starts all the way back, you know, we bless you and keep you make his face shine upon you and so forth lift his face upon you and give you peace.

That shalom is much more. Than the ceasing of hostilities or even that you are now allies. It is everything you could possibly need the wholeness that you get from God holy giving himself to you and exerting himself for you. Do so if that's the peace that we have with God then think about the peace that we have with one another.

It follows that great commandment, doesn't it that third as it were great commandment love one another as I have loved you. So he's saying we're gonna get that peace by God doing it in us. We're gonna get that love with faith towards God. And of course towards one another if it's for God and we belong to God love with faith and what do we need most of all in order for these things grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ and sincerity.

If you're if you have all that God is for all that you need him to be and you say well, I don't have goodness. God has all goodness in himself and he is working out that goodness in you that working out what he is for what we lack is grace.

So, I have no righteousness to stand on. Well, he has given. Him his own righteousness in Jesus to be the righteousness that stands for you. That is called grace and our love for him even our peace with one another that's all coming by the favor of the Lord upon those who have nothing of their own and know claim before him for what he gives grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

It is a close to the letter that sounds like a signing off for a book. By or a greeting but in it is the assurance and the proclaiming of all those good things that he's been teaching throughout the entire letter. Praise God, we can be sure of his peace for us.

His giving us love with faith. His grace for us in Christ. Let's pray. We thank you Lord for this letter Ephesians, we thank you for the way it describes your plan and purpose for the church corporately. And for each of us individually is believers we thank you for what it tells us about what you have done between us and yourself and between us and one another we thank you for the instruction that it gives us for how to grow and how we ought to be unto you and how we ought to be unto one another and we thank you for the certainty that it gives us that you grant the work of your spirit by your grace to produce in us from Christ those things that you command.

So keep doing that work we pray for the rest of our earthly lives until he returns until we enter glory and that work is perfected in us we ask in Jesus name amen.