

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road

Grand Island, New York

www.bfcgi.org

716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

April 30, 2017 8:30 & 10:15AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann

Piano Wendy Baldwin

Doxology

Prayer and Scripture Reading

Hymn 11 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn Favorites

Message PHILIPPIANS: FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL

Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 348 vs 1, 4 "My Savior's Love"

Benediction

Ron Mock

Psalm 119:81-88

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday at 6:30pm

Tuesday Bible study at 7pm on Ezekiel 38 & 39 –Ernie Beck teaching

Wednesday Men's Bible study – Jim O'Rourke teaching

Choir Rehearsal Wednesday at 7pm begins May 3rd

Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. – The book of "Romans"- Margaret Was

Ladies fellowship Thursday at 10am – Elsa Peters

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell teaching

The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

Anyone interested in joining the choir please see Dawn Fraser

Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

II John 3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

The Greek greeting in letters was *chairein*, which literally means "to rejoice." From the field of Marathon in Greece (in 490 BC) a soldier ran 26 miles to the city of Athens with the words: "Rejoice, we are winning." They did win the Battle of Marathon against the Persians and more than a century later would conquer the entire Persian Empire. Yes, the Marathon man did die immediately after giving that famous greeting of good news to the Athenians. Most New Testament books contain a form of that greeting, which is translated "Grace." The usual Hebrew greeting (still used today) is *shalom* "peace." Always greet Arabs with "salem" (Arabic for peace) and Jewish people with "shalom." Grace and peace are found in several of Paul's Epistles and in I Peter as well. The pastoral epistles of Paul use "Grace, mercy, and peace," and it is this form that John uses in his Second Epistle.

John uses "Grace, mercy, and peace" not as a prayer but as a declaration of assurance. In the Greek text the future tense of the verb "to be" appears, so that what John actually says is "There shall be with you grace, mercy, and peace." These benefits are assured for all of God's people. Just as the truth "shall be with us forever" as it says in verse 2, so now shall grace, mercy and peace. Grace is God's favor toward sinners; mercy is His compassion for the misery of sinners; and peace is "the result when the guilt and misery of sin are removed. Can I get an Amen???"

Note also in verse 3 that John mentions that these blessings come from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. John then adds that Christ is "the Son of the Father." Such a declaration is aimed at those Gnostic teachers who denied that Jesus is God's Son.

The last item that must be mentioned is that "grace, mercy and peace" are gifts to us in the sphere of "truth and love." These two elements are never separated from each other in God, nor should they be from one another in His people.