

Sermon Text: Revelation 1:4-5a Grace and Peace from the Trinity

Our Triune God gives grace and peace to His Church even through fierce conflict.

1) The single source of benediction for the whole Church.

- a) "The seven churches that are in Asia"—historical churches representative of the Visible Church
- b) "Grace to you and peace from . . ."
- c) One Gracious Will
- d) One Peaceful Relation
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Fellowship with the Triune God
 - ii) Fellowship with all the saints
 - iii) Peace to the earth (contrast Rev. 6:4)

2) Grace and peace from the Sovereign, Unchanging Father.

- a) "He who is and who was and who is to come"
 - i) YHWH—Tetragrammaton; Divine Name; Exod. 3:14; 33:17-20; 34:6-7
 - ii) "is and was"=being (will be)
 - iii) "is to come" = eschatology; goal of human history
 - iv) Emphasizes the Father's Sovereignty over History
- b) **Application:**
 - i) Trust in the faithfulness of the unchanging God.
 - ii) Trust in the authority of the sovereign God.

3) Grace and peace from the all-wise Spirit.

- a) "seven spirits who are before His throne"
 - i) Isaiah 11:1-2 "The Sevenfold Spirit of God" (Spirit of the LORD, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the LORD)
 - ii) Rev. 5:6 "a Lamb . . . with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth" (Zech. 3:9; 4:10—placed upon the anointed priest, Joshua)
 - iii) The Spirit of Wisdom who anointed the Messiah is given to His Church to impart wisdom and empower witness (Rev. 11:1-14; 19:10; 22:17).
- b) **Application:**
 - i) Trust the knowledge of the all-knowing God.
 - ii) Trust the wisdom of the all-wise God.

4) Grace and peace from the Conquering Son.

- a) "Jesus Christ the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of kings on earth"
 - i) "Faithful Witness" = obedience unto death; victory
 - ii) "Firstborn of the dead" = resurrection; vindication
 - iii) "Ruler of kings on earth" = present session at Father's right hand
- b) **Application:**
 - i) Trust the victory over sin and satan of the conquering God.
 - ii) Trust the vindication of the righteous God.
 - iii) Trust the authority of the reigning God.

Doxology: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.