

How is Your Life Punctuated?

Ephesians 6:23,24

Introduction:

- A. How do you end a letter?
 - a. S_____ followed by your name (business)
 - b. L_____ followed by your name (family)
 - c. Hugs and k_____ followed by your name (romantic)
 - d. Just your name or no name at all (emails)
- B. How did Paul end his letter to the Ephesians?
 - a. He was not saying in a Christian way, I h_____ all will go well with you.
 - b. He was ex_____ a fact that is true for all believers which should have an exclamation point after it.
- C. How is your life punctuated?

All believers have harmony with God! (23a)

KJV – Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

NAS – Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

NIV – Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. What is the first word of the verse? _____
 - 1. Traditional letters ended with peace in the i_____ form.
 - 2. Paul put the word peace in the s_____ form.
- B. What is the second word of the verse?
 - 1. The NAS and KJV have the word _____
 - a. The KJV puts the word in italics to alert the reader that there is no corresponding word in the G_____ text which Paul wrote (the NAS failed to do this)
 - b. The NIV has the most literal rendering
 - 2. Whenever a word is put in the subject form without a verb, it was how the Greeks communicated an exclamation point.
- C. If you are a believer in Christ, you have peace!
 - 1. This is not a f_____ of peace
 - 2. This is a f_____ of peace because of what Jesus did on the cross for us (Eph 2:14,15 - Jesus is our peace; Eph 2:17 and 6:15 - the gospel is about peace; Jn 20:19,20 – Jesus’ showed His crucifixion wounds to His disciples exclaiming peace to them; Rom 5:1 – since we have been justified by faith we have p_____ with God through our Lord Jesus Christ)

All believers have God's love and faithfulness! (23b)

A. God's love

1. Definition (agape) – an _____, sacrificial love.
2. Demonstrated in what He lost in becoming human
 - a. When He was born, He gave up k_____, wisdom, authority, glory.
 - b. When He died, He died n_____ and helpless and full of our sin.
3. When you accepted Christ, you were given this love as a permanent gift.

B. God's faithfulness

1. This could be understood as our faith being a gift from God (Eph 2:8; Phil 1:29)
2. But this verse is referring to God's action toward us
 - a. The Greek word translated faith is often translated faithfulness (Matt 23:23; Rom 3:3; Gal 5:2 – the KJV translates as faith but clearly means faithfulness to us).
 - b. His faithfulness toward us a_____ His love toward us (love **with** faithfulness)
3. How faithful is God toward us?
 - a. He will never l_____ us (Heb 13:5)
 - b. He will never let us p_____ (Jn 10:28)
 - c. He will not let anything or anyone s_____ us from His love (Rom 8:38,39).

All believers have grace which is living forever (24)

KJV – Grace *be* with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

NAS – Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with *a love* incorruptible.

NIV – Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with undying love.

Greek – The grace with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in immortality!

A. “Grace” is in the same format as “love” and “faithfulness.”

1. It is in the subject case without a verb (the word, “be” does not correspond to any word in the Greek text) and so is an ex_____ of fact.
2. It is biblically defined as an un_____ gift.

B. Some differences in this verse than the previous verse

1. The word grace has the word “_____” before it in the Greek text (not so with the words peace, love, and faithfulness).

2. Grace is w_____ believers where peace, love with faithfulness is **to** believers (NIV wrongly translates the preposition as “to,” which it can never mean)
- C. The exclamation - The grace that is with all those who love the Lord Jesus is in incorruption!
1. KJV reads *in sincerity* (the Greek word is used six other times in the N.T. and always means immortal, cannot d_____ but lasts forever - (Rom 2:7; 1Cor 15:42,50,53,54; 2Tim 1:10).
 2. NAS and NIV add the n_____ love which does not correspond to any word in the Greek text (notice italics in NAS)
 3. NAS and NIV change the noun in the Greek text (immortality) to an adjective (sounds like only certain believers have this grace).
 - a. Paul changed the pattern from the previous verses – He is not exclaiming that believers have grace but is exclaiming something about this grace that believers have.
 - b. Consider similar phrases
 - 1) Acts 4:12 - *Salvation is **in** no one else.* One cannot be saved in any other way that in Jesus.
 - 2) Rev 9:19 - *The power of the horses is **in** their mouths.* The power of the horses lies nowhere else.
 - 3) 1Jn 5:11 - *Life is **in** His Son.* Life is only in God’s Son.
 - c. Grace is **in** immortality. Grace is found nowhere else but in immortality.
 - 1) When God saved us by grace, He gave us the g_____ of immortality.
 - 2) The grace that is with us is in living forever!
 - a) 1Cor 15:52; 1Thess 4:16 – when Jesus returns, He will c_____ our mortal, decayed bodies into immortal ones.
 - b) 1Thess 5:23,24 – at His coming, all believers will be immortal in b_____, soul, and spirit.
 4. Paul ends this letter with the exclamation of immortality for all believers.

Conclusion – How will you punctuate your life?

- A. Sometimes life might seem like a _____ mark or a period.
- B. God gave us the greatest gift of all that puts an _____ point on our lives.
 1. You will always have p_____ with God! (Rom 5:1)
 2. You will always have God’s love with His faithfulness!
 3. The grace that you have is all about living f_____!

Punctuate your life as God does!