The Benediction in the Letters of the New Testament

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.

᾿Η 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 τὴν χάριν τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ μεθ᾽ ὑμῶν. 24 ἡ ἀγάπη μου μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

Second Corinthians (none)

Romans 16:24

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. Amen.

Ἦ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μεθὰ πάντων ὑμῶν. ἀμήν.

1Although 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.


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 Χριστόν 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.
eἰρήνη ὑμῖν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ.

Second Peter (none)
First John (none)
Second John (none)
Third John (none)
Jude (none)