

God's peace, material and spiritual prosperity, to all who are in Christ

(I noticed this scripture on a wall calendar on 11-8-21: 1 Pet 5:14 KJV **Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ.**

Adam Clarke's Commentary on the verse, including what "in Christ" means:

Adam Clarke was head of the Methodist Church in the UK 225 years ago. He spent 40 years writing his commentary on the Bible. He was an advocate of the holiness teachings of John Wesley who founded the Methodist Church.

Clarke: "**Greet one another with a kiss of love.** In other places the kiss is called a holy kiss; here, it's phileemati agapees, a kiss of LOVE; i.e. as a mark of their love to each other, in order that misunderstandings might be prevented. (A kiss is replaced by a handshake in the Living Bible – reflecting the shift in Christianity away from the Jewish tradition of a kiss).

Peace to you all who are in Christ. May all prosperity, both spiritual and material, be with **all who are in Christ** - who are truly converted to Him, and who live in His Spirit obedient to His will".

It is delightful, but rare, to read someone's understanding, that only can be received by revelation from God, of what the expression "in Christ" actually means - Even though it is one of the most frequent expressions in the New Testament. Adam Clarke: **Who live in His Spirit obedient to His will.**

Rom 8:1-4 **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ...**(meaning) **whose will is not under the control of their human nature, but under the control of God's Spirit** (Who they've received by faith into their spirit so as to lead them continually, His Spirit to their spirit).

This leads into a devotional by Andrew Murray on waiting for God's counsel

Lam 3:25 **The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him** (to know Him and His will for them in all of their decisions).

Hos 12:6 **...And wait on your God continually** (to reveal His counsel).

Col 1:9 **...We...do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom** (from His words) **and spiritual understanding** (of both His will and His words, given to your spirit personally, by His Holy Spirit, as you wait on Him continually to do so;)

For His Counsel

November 15, 2020

They soon forgot His works; they waited not for His counsel.

—Psalm 106:13

This refers to God's people in the wilderness. He had redeemed them and was prepared to supply their every need. But, when the time of need came, "*they waited not for His counsel.*" They did not think that the almighty God was their Leader and Provider. They did not ask what His plans might be. They simply thought the thoughts of their own hearts, and provoked God by their unbelief.

How this has been the sin of God's people in all ages! In the land of Canaan, in the days of Joshua, the only three failures of which we read were owing to this one sin. In going up against Ai, in making a covenant with the Gibeonites, in settling down without going up to possess the whole land, "*they waited not for His counsel.*" And so, even the advanced believer is in danger from this most subtle of temptations: taking God's Word, thinking his own thoughts of it, and not waiting for His counsel. Let us especially regard it not only as a danger to which the individual is exposed, but as one against which God's people, in their collective capacity, need to be on their guard.

Our whole relationship to God is ruled in this, that His will is to be done in us and by us. He has promised to make known His will to us by His Spirit. Our position is to be waiting for His counsel as the only guide of our thoughts and actions. In our church worship, in our meetings, in our gatherings as committees or helpers in any part of the work for God, our first object must always be to ascertain the mind of God. God always works according to the counsel of His will. The more that counsel of His will is sought, found and honored, the more surely will God do His work for us and through us.

The great danger is that in our consciousness of having our Bible, in our past experience of God's leading, in our sound creed and our honest wish to do God's will, we trust in these and do not realize that with every step we need and may have a heavenly guidance. There may be elements of God's will, application of God's Word, experience of the

leading of God, manifestations of the power of His Spirit, of which we know nothing as yet. God is willing to open up these to souls who are willing, in patience, to wait for Him to make it known.