

Biblical Benedictions from the New Testament: God Bestows Sanctification



Scripture

- **I Thessalonians 5:23**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Other Scriptures

- Hebrews 5:14
- Luke 9:23
- Luke 22:42,44
- I Corinthians 15:10
- Revelation 22:12

Main Points

- Benediction Definition:
 - A blessing bestowed by God upon His people.
 - Often fall at the end of a New Testament book
 - Pronounced by a priest at the end of a service
- God is fundamentally a God of shalom, a God of peace.
- In order to be led by God's Spirit, we need to cultivate peace in our lives.
- God's peace is what crushes demonic power.
- In order to walk with God, we need to be grounded in His peace.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relevance or importance of peace in relationship to God and His leading in our lives? Begin to track your daily life journeys in relationship to the amount of peace you experience. What are the things that keep you from dwelling in shalom?
2. What are some things you can actively do and not do to cultivate peace in your life? When tempted to lose your peace, what can you do to harness the negative thoughts and energy and pull in the peace of God?
3. What kind of power does God's peace have over the demonic world?
4. Why do you think Paul would connect peace as part of his benediction?
5. As you continue to go through this series with Rabbi make peace a priority emphasis in your life. Journal what God does for you in this area through God's Spirit at work in you.