

The Great Wait: Delight and Discernment in the Second Coming

“The Blessing”

Thessalonians 5:23–28

October 5, 2025

The Lord’s Day Morning

Each worship service in our church and in thousands of churches around the world will end today with a blessing or benediction (lit. speaking good things). The tradition has biblical roots in the Old Testament (Numbers 6:24–26) and continues in the New Testament, as we see in this morning’s text.

What is a blessing? The blessing is a brief statement assuring God’s *gathered* people of his steadfast love for them, encouraging them to *grow* in knowing, loving, obeying, and exalting Jesus Christ as they are dismissed from public worship to *go* out into the world.

1. God’s peace assures us he will give us the spiritual _____ we need for adversity (23).
2. God’s faithfulness assures us we will make gradual _____ in becoming like Jesus (24).
3. God’s commands assure us we are responsible to _____ the means of grace (25–27).
4. God’s grace assures us that his enabling _____ goes with us when we leave here (28).