

Spurgeon's Notes

- 1:2** - Notice the apostle's triple salutation, "Grace, mercy, and peace." Whenever Paul writes to a church, he wishes "grace and peace." But to a minister he wishes, "grace, *mercy*, and peace." Ah, we need mercy more than the average Christian. We have greater responsibilities and, consequently, might more readily fall into greater sin. So to a minister Paul's salutation is, "grace, *mercy*, and peace."
- 1:5-7** - Some put the law of God into its wrong place. They made it a way of salvation, which it never was meant to be and never can be. It is a way of conviction! It is an instrument of humbling! It shows us the evil of sin, but it never takes sin away.
- 1:15** - This godly sensitivity toward sin was associated in the apostle's mind with an equally vivid sense of the freeness and richness of divine grace. That Christ died not for the righteous but for the guilty is the great thought that is on his mind, and he has no hesitancy in declaring it and in speaking most boldly concerning the exceedingly abundant grace of God in forgiving sin. The union of these two feelings in Paul is by no means an unusual occurrence among human minds, for you will generally find that **the people who are most clear in their witness that salvation is by grace are also the people for whom sin is exceedingly sinful.** Indeed, all those who prize grace most are those who also feel most sorrow concerning their transgressions.
- 1:17** - Paul could not help this outburst of praise. When he remembered his own conversion and pardon and his being entrusted with the ministry of the gospel, he was obligated to put down his pen and lift up his voice in grateful thanksgiving to God. So may it be with us as we remember what great things the Lord has done for us.