



GRACE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

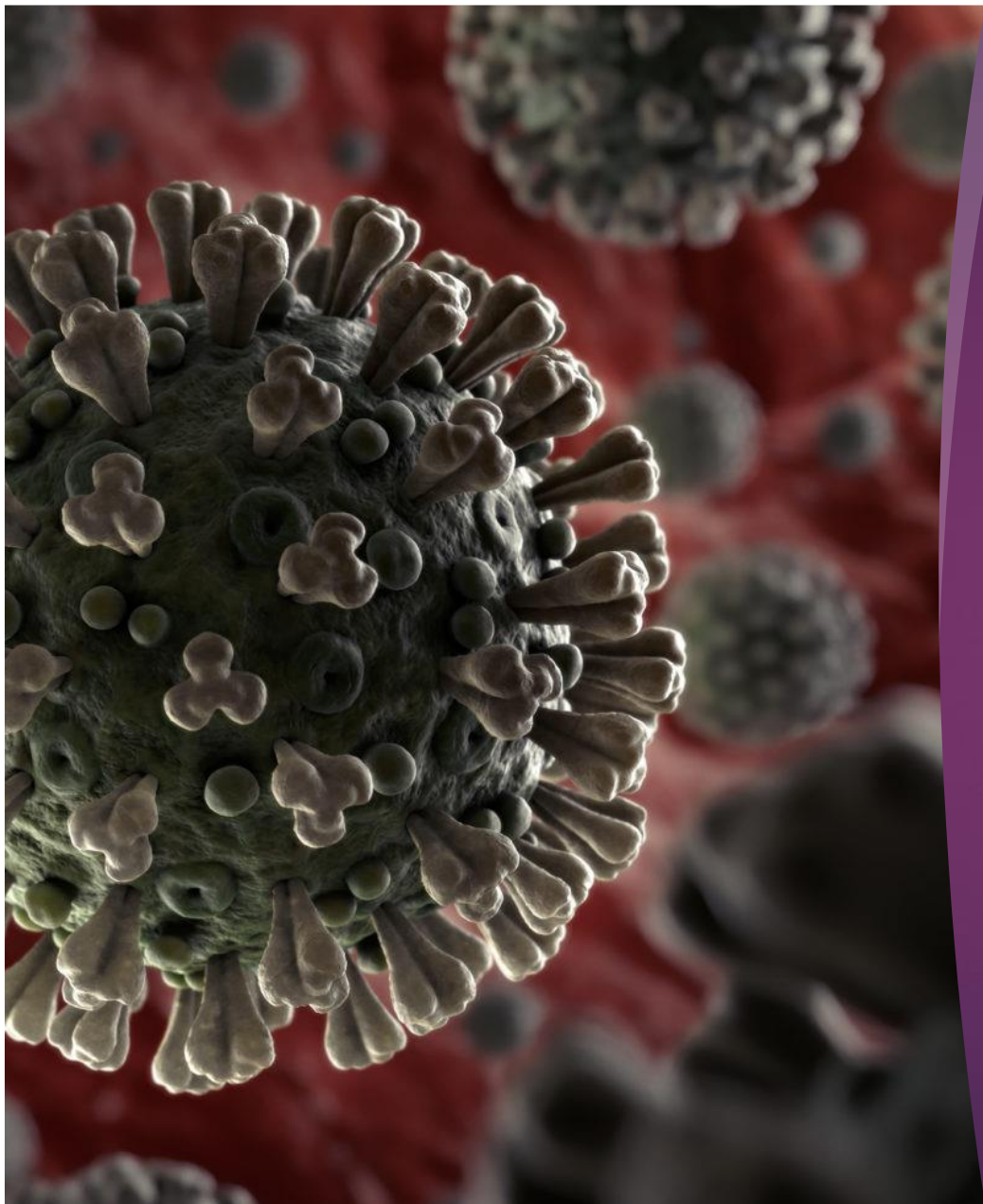
TRUE



Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Grace COVID Masks?

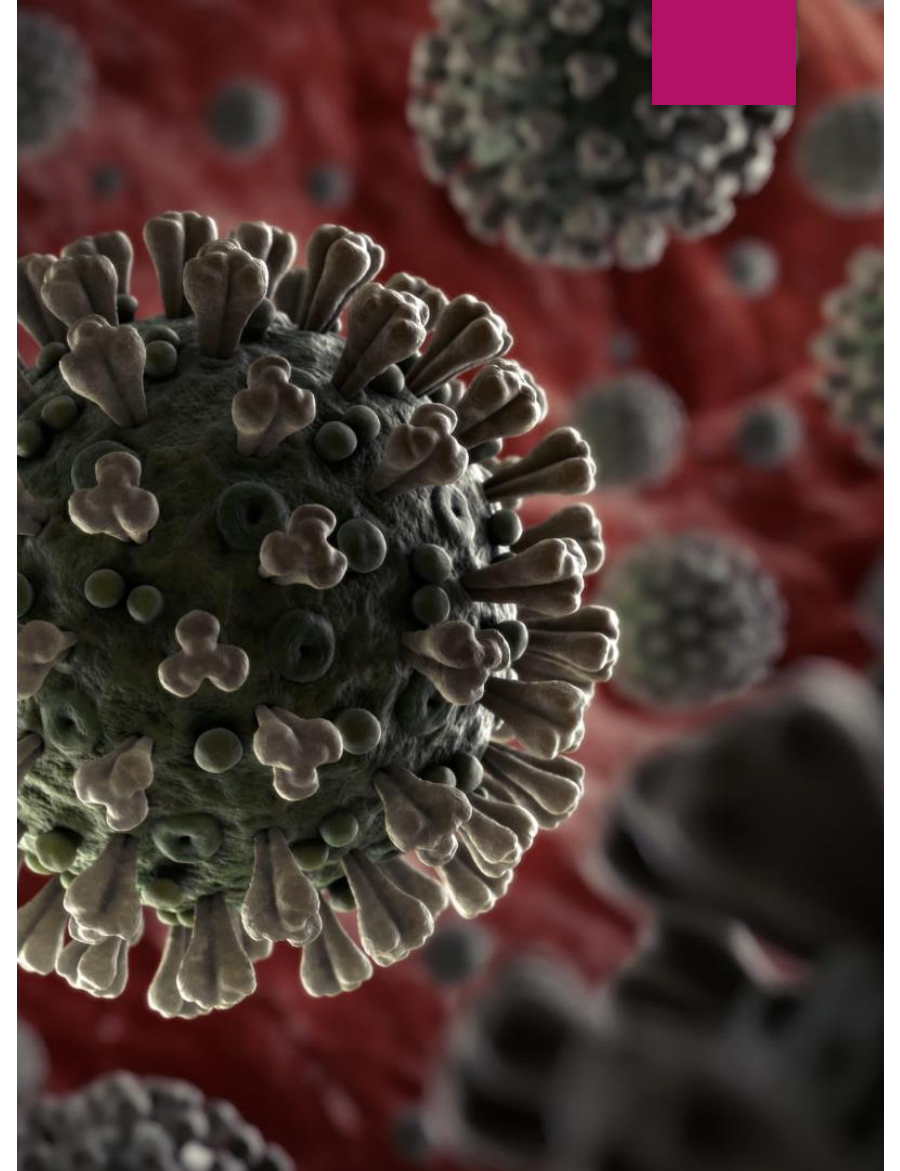




What do you want to
take from this time
and make it part of
your **new normal**
(whenever that
re-emerges)?

Everything that happens
in the life of a believer—
from the moment of
salvation to the moment I
see Jesus face-to-face—
is **discipleship**.

God is teaching me to
follow Christ and become
like him.



1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, NIV

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:25-27, NIV

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

1 Thessalonians 5:28, NIV

*²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

- **God** completes his rescue mission.
*We can **rest**.*
- **We** live out God's rescue mission.
*We must **work**.*
- **Jesus** empowers God's rescue mission.
*We will **worship**.*

God completes his rescue mission.

We can rest.

► **Peace**

- Wholeness (*Shalom*).
- Restored relationship.
- Present even with external pressures.
- Peace \cong salvation (Acts 10:36; Ro 2:10; 5:1; 8:6; 14:17).

Acts 10:36, NIV

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing **the good news of peace** through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Romans 2:9-10, NIV

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and **peace** for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 5:1, NIV

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:6, NIV

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and **peace**.

Romans 14:17, NIV

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, **peace** and joy in the Holy Spirit.

God completes his rescue mission.

We can rest.

▶ **Peace—Salvation is ...**

- **Top-down**; from God to us.
- **Inside out** (our heart issues resolved so that our behaviors can be life-giving and health sustaining).
- **Sanctified**—made holy by God.

God completes his rescue mission.

We can rest.

May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

▶ ***The presence and power of the living God in us.***

- Restored to our original design.
- Total renewal + permanent change.

God completes his rescue mission.

We can rest.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

▶ ***The faithfulness of God is the foundation of our faithfulness.***

- Restored to our original design.
- Total renewal + permanent change.

God completes his rescue mission.

We can rest.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

- ▶ God gives us **peace**
- ▶ God **sanctifies** us completely and permanently.
- ▶ God is **faithful** to all he has promised, to do all he has promised.
- ▶ **God calls you even now, throughout life.**

We live out his rescue mission.

We can work.

Three specific tasks we are given:

- ▶ We are free to work hard, but are these three hard work?
 - *Pray.*
 - *Greet.*
 - *Read.*

We live out his rescue mission.

We can work.

PRAY

- ▶ **Pray!** We join God in his rescue mission of human lives when we work at praying.
- ▶ The work comes in **making the time** and **giving your undivided attention.**

We live out his rescue mission.

We can work.

GREET

- ▶ A holy kiss is, first of all, **holy**.
- ▶ Typical greeting within family.
- ▶ Part of reconciliation, restoration.
- ▶ **Wow!** See Col 3:10-11 & 1 Cor 6:9-11

We live out his rescue mission.

We can work.

READ

- ▶ 1 Thess is holy scripture just like OT.
- ▶ All believers were to hear the word.
- ▶ Taking an oath is implied in Paul's language—"swear to God you will read to all ages, races, gender."

Jesus empowers his rescue mission.

We can worship.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

► **Grace:**

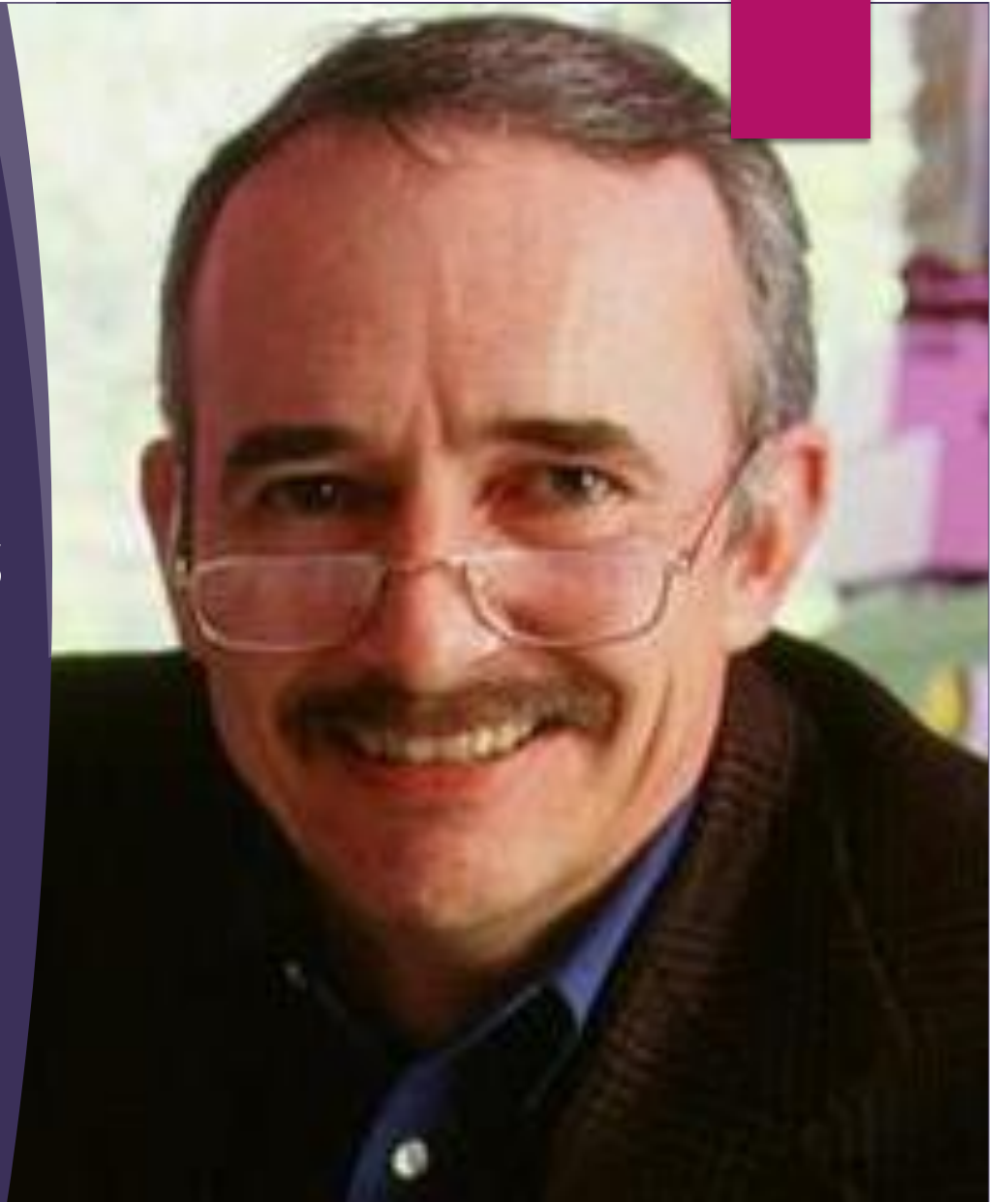
- The free gift that brings joy and moves us to gratitude in all we do.
- Unmerited favor, special enablement to serve, strength in weak areas.
- Jesus is the source of grace toward us.

1 Thessalonians 1:1, NIV

*Paul, Silas and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:
Grace and peace to you.*

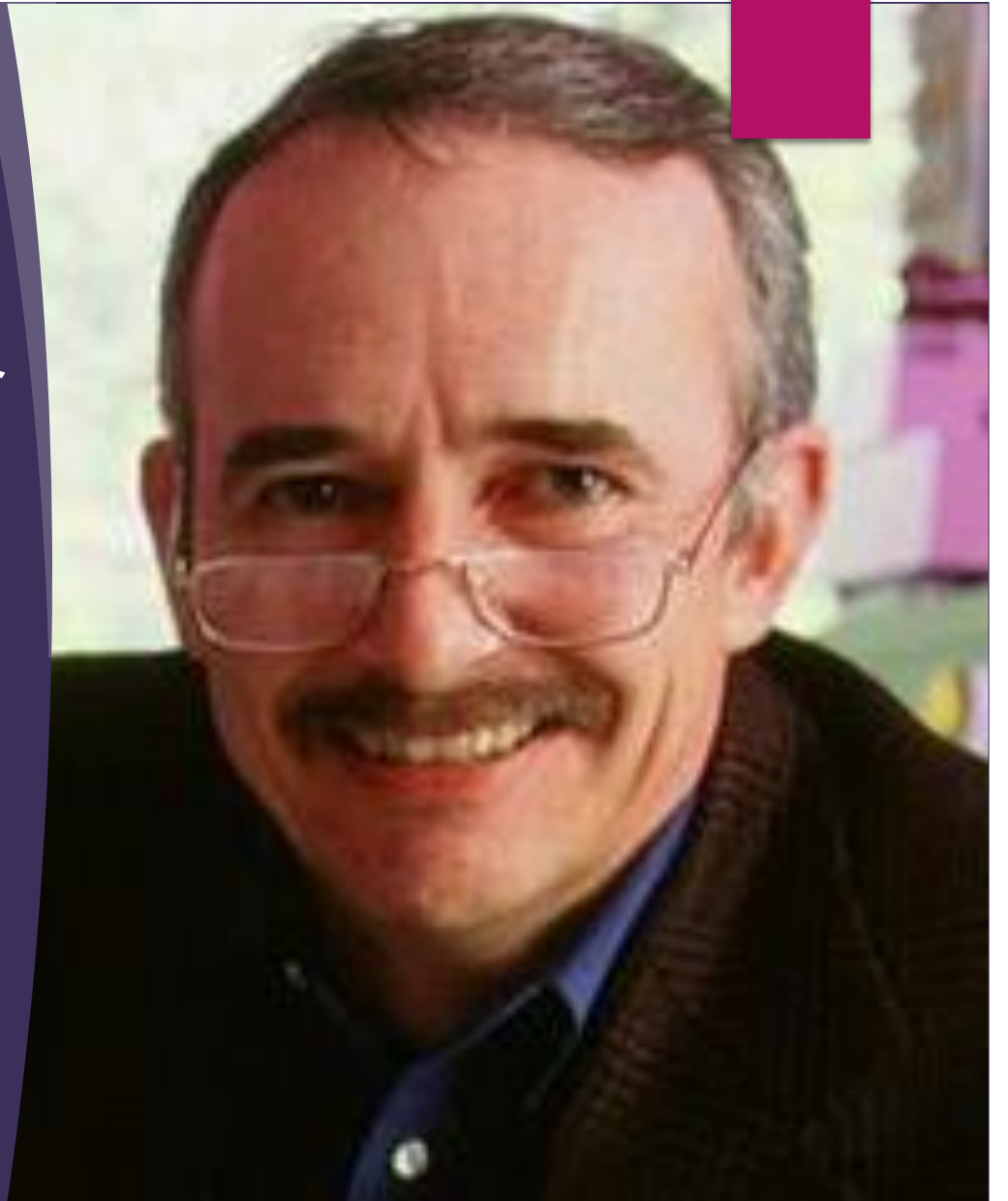
Dr. Michael Holmes

In echoing in these closing verses the key ideas of his opening verse, Paul closes the letter as it began: with the spotlight, focus, and emphasis squarely on God and Jesus Christ.



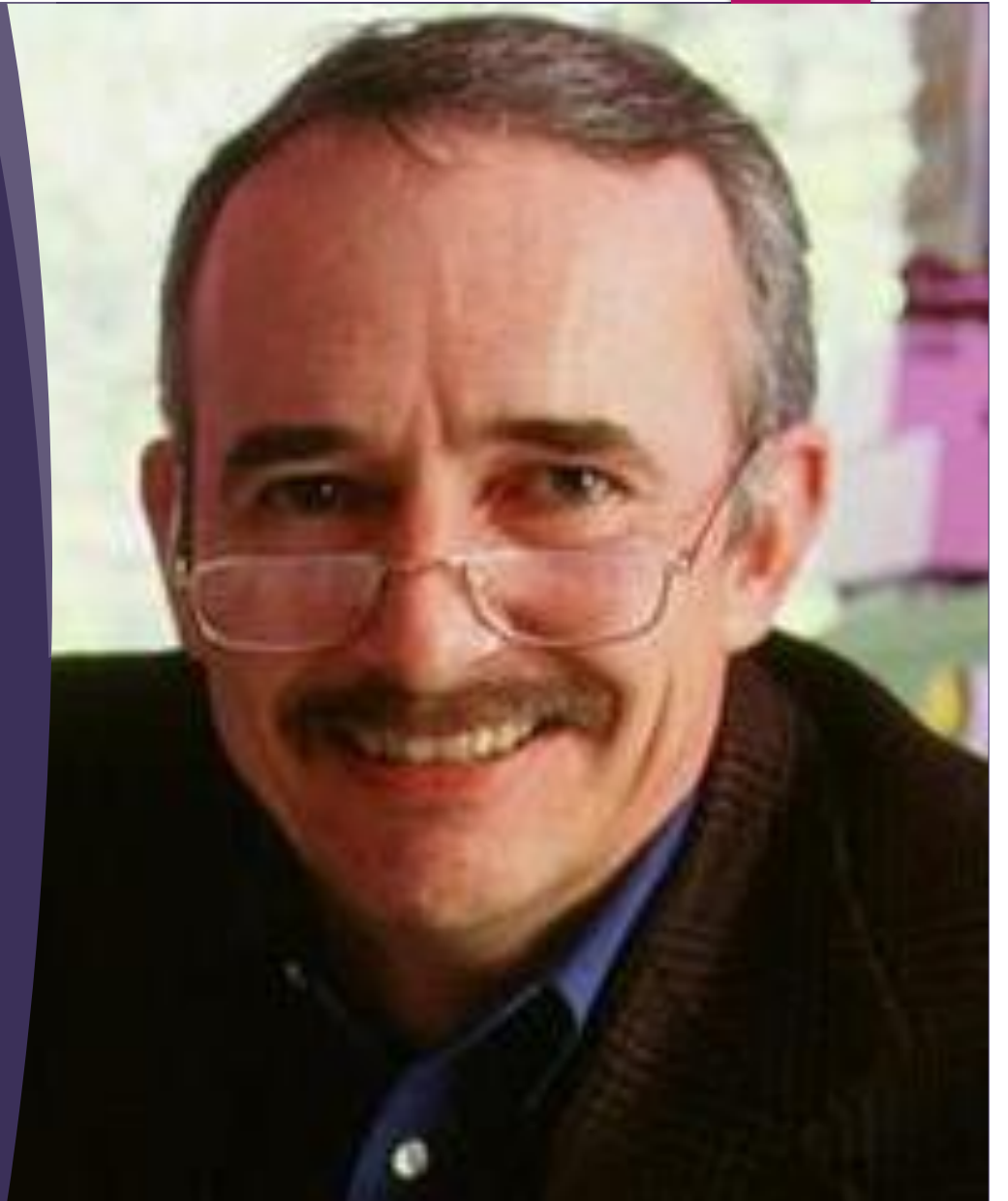
Dr. Michael Holmes

Our future, in other words, rests entirely in the power and faithfulness of God. Paul implied as much by the way he linked together in 1:1 phrases like “grace,” “peace,” “God the Father,” and “the Lord Jesus Christ.”



Dr. Michael Holmes

Here he makes it explicit: our future as believers rests entirely on the power and faithfulness of God as revealed through Jesus the Messiah. If that is a good place to begin, it is an even better place to end as we anticipate “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”





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