

Oh hey, how are you? What's going on? Hope everything's good. However it happens greeting someone is considered polite. But what impact do they really have? We have no ability to make it a great day for someone else. We don't have the connections to be able to change someone's future. Most of time we would much rather have the standard, "everything's good" reply or "Nothing much, how about you?" We really greet each other to be nice. If there's something wrong there's not much we can do about it.

That's the way you confirmants walked in here today, knowing there wasn't much you could do to change someone else's future. We can barely do anything to change our own future. That's something we all know. Some of the confirmation verses you chose bear that out. **"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."** **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins..."** **"For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son..."** We don't have the ability to do too much to affect our spiritual wellbeing. In fact we can do nothing.

Hopefully during the last two years you've learned many things in confirmation class. A big one I hope you take with you is that the Bible is clear. When it says that each and every one of you, each and every one of all of us, each and every human being is a sinner it's true. That doesn't mean we stumble part of the time. It means we fall into deep and shameful sins all the time. Sin separates you and everyone here from God.

Alone that's our future. Not much to look forward to. Almost sounds like we have nothing to live for. Sounds like today's confirmation is worthless. Confirmed into what people might ask? That's what Paul talks about in the second lesson for today. You're getting confirmed into the grace and peace of Christ. Paul uses it like a greeting, but it's a greeting like no other.

Look at what that greeting gives you. God the Father wishes you grace and peace. He's also the only one who can give grace and peace. Grace as you well learned is the undeserved love of God that he shows to sinful human beings. It's a quality of God and it's a gift of God to us. Through that gift you have the forgiveness for your sins, all of them. We all do. Paul says Christ rescued us from the present evil age. He rescued us for eternity forever and ever. Peace is the quality we enjoy because of grace. The gap that existed between us and God because of sin is closed. We have peace with him again.

And all of it, the forgiveness, the rescue, the grace, and the peace come from Christ and through Christ. Today on your confirmation day you profess your faith in him. Faith not in yourselves, not in each other, not in this congregation, but faith in Christ. You profess your love for him, your desire to follow him to the end, and your willingness to do whatever it takes to remain close to him. I pray these promises you make here give glory to God for a lifetime. In Christ you have everything.

Words from Galatians chapter 1:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,⁵ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.