

"War and peace"

in **verse 20**, Paul gives a word that has to do with God's promise to redeem fallen humanity through the coming Messiah,

A. Paul is looking in **three directions** at once:

At a **past work**, at a **present work** and to the **future work**

1. a past work=

he is **looking back** to the cross and the resurrection where Satan's authority over believers was crushed remembering God's promise: **Gen. 3:15**

In this passage the Lord promised to save His people by coming as the Seed of the Woman [**Gal. 3:16**]

Jesus submitted Himself to being **bruised** at the cross so that He would **crush** Satan's authority in the resurrection.

Col. 2:13-15

1 John 3:8

This is the **past completed** work of God allowing all believers to be free from the shackles of Satan and sin, to live victorious lives for the glory of God.

2. a present work=

Paul is looking at the ongoing attacks of Satan against the church that will be crushed as to their effectiveness: **John 16:7-14**

3. a future work=

Paul also looks forward to the time when Satan *himself* will finally be vanquished: **Rev. 20:10,14-15**

B. Paul also says **three things** about this ongoing crushing of Satan:

1. This crushing of Satan is initiated and empowered by the God of peace:

The Bible shows that man is at war with God, that all are born into a state of warfare and enmity with God and with one another.

Romans 5:10

Romans 5:1

2. This crushing of Satan will **happen soon**.

There are **two** elements to **soon**: *now and then*

NOW has to do with the ongoing work of God in our lives today

THEN=At the appointed time, has to do with the return of Jesus and the end of all time.

Why does Paul look to that Day?

Such gives the church the **motive** and **stability**

All the apostles emphasized this truth: today is a **revelation** and **preparation** for That **DAY**

That DAY is the great DAY of the Lord

1 Thess.= Paul writes the new church to encourage them in their "...faith...love...and hope..." and to instruct them in their doctrine so that their practice will be Godly.

Ch. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:17; 5:23

1 Cor. 4:5= 2 Cor. 5:9-10= 1 John 2:28= 1 John 3:1-3= Titus 2:13

3. This crushing of Satan is to be happening NOW by the church="...under your feet."
Rev. 12:11

How will the Lord crush Satan under our feet: under the feet of our worthy walk:

What kind of a walk crushes Satan?

A humble walk=Phil. 2:5-11

A Grace walk=2 Cor. 12:7-10

A persevering walk=2 Cor. 4:8-12

A sacrificial walk=2 Cor. 1:8-10

A loving walk=1 John 4:7-14

A faith walk=Hebrews 11:6

A Spiritual walk=Romans 8:14

A giving walk=Phil. 4: 15-19

A contented walk=James 4:1-7

An accountable walk=Eph. 5:21

*Remembering that Jesus triumphed over Satan by His sinless Life: **John 14:30***

To the extent that we resist sin and pursue maturity in Christ, we will experience an ever increasing ability to crush and schemes of Satan.

Two men's walk: crushing and being crushed=Abraham and Lot

What was the difference?

What was the result?

All is of God's grace.

Paul ends the verse with: *The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

Why should we seek to live lives that crush Satan's schemes=

for the joy and pleasure of our Father Who delights in our victories

What about our lives:

Can God say that our lives are crushing Satan or that Satan is crushing us?

In what areas are we crushing Satan?

In what areas are we experiencing some crushing?

Our personal holiness
our spiritual devotions such as the Word, prayer and giving
our care and service for others
our evangelizing
our attitudes and motives and desires
our love for the brethren
our pursuit of humility