



**“Final Greetings: Stepping Stones to the Joy of Unity”**  
**Philippians 4:21-23**

Philippians 4:21-23 - “Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

**INTRODUCTION**

Our study has been five months, 22 weeks. We’ve reviewed four chapters, 104 verses.

**NOTES FROM PAUL’S GREETING**

- **Note #1: Paul’s greeting is personal.**

Philippians 4:21a – “Greet every saint...”

Greet = as pazomai-hospitable recognition. This type of greeting affirms another existence.

“I want you to hospitably acknowledge and affirm EVERY believer’s existence for me.” – Pastor Wil

- **Note #2: Paul’s greeting is unified.**

Philippians 4:21a – “Greet every saint in Christ...”

Paul reminds us of our position as set apart ones who have a unity to each other because of our union with Christ.

- Philippians 1:1 – “...to all the saints in Christ Jesus...”

Because all are in Christ (unity), all are deserving of our love and deference.

- Galatians 3:28 – “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

Philippians 4:21b-22a – “...The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you...”

There are no pockets of disunity (i.e. some of the saints like you but some don’t)

- **Note #3: Paul’s greeting is praiseful.**

Philippians 4:22 – “All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.”

Praise Report: Converts are joining in on the greeting.

- Philippians 1:13 – “...so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else,”
- Remember, Philippi was a “mini-Rome”. People would proclaim “Hail Caesar savior of all mankind”
- Paul was chained to the Praetorian Guards 24-hr per day, over six shifts.

- **Note #4: Paul's greeting is familiar.**  
Philippians 4:23 – "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

Paul always starts with "grace to you..." and ends with "grace be *with* you."

## STEPPING STONES FOR JOY IN UNITY

- **Chapter 1: Focus on Jesus.** The joy of unity in our walk with God.

Philippians 1:13 – "...so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else,"

Philippians 1:21 – "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

- Paul sees his imprisonment for Christ and as a result, the gospel has moved irresistibly through the palace guard and beyond.

- **Chapter 2: Care for Others.** The joy of unity in our relationship to each other.

Philippians 2:2-4 – "...make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

- The goal is to serve others in humility because Jesus served us first.

Philippians 2:5-8 – "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross."

- The Son of Man came not to be served but to \_\_\_\_\_ and give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45)
- Beatitudes Revised (from the world's perspective) by J.B. Phillips

- **Chapter 3: Reevaluate Yourself.** The joy of unity in our heart of hearts.

Philippians 3:4-10 – "although I myself could boast as having confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he is confident in the flesh, I have more reason: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;"

- Paul rejected himself as the goal was to be perfect in Christ
- To be one of Jesus' apprentices organize your life around three basic goals: 1) Be with Jesus. 2) Become like Jesus. 3) Do what he would do if he were you. – John Mark Comer

**CONCLUSION: J.O.Y. (Jesus. Others. Yourself)**

1. **Focus on Jesus**
2. **Care for Others**
3. **Reevaluate Yourself**

- **Chapter 4: Trust in God**

Philippians 4:19-20 – “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- It has been said that spiritual maturity can be measured by what it takes to rob you of your joy.

**CLOSING CHALLENGE:**

Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.”

May the unity we have in Christ be used to follow Paul’s example, drawing on the strength of the same God so **that the book of Philippians may become ours for life.**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Why do you think greetings are so important?
2. Would you ever consider being a greeter at church? Why or why not?
3. What word or phrase jumps out to you from the passage? Why?
4. Overall, what has been your favorite part of the book of Philippians?
5. Think of someone you could hand write a note of encouragement to. Be sure to end the letter with either, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit” or your own personal salutation.