

Contentment in Christ

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It was January 4th, 2026 that Pastor Kim preached the first sermon from the book of Philippians. After 19 sermons, we have arrived. This will be the last sermon of this series on the book of Philippians.

You will go ahead and turn with me to Philippians chapter 4 and we will be in verse 15. Philippians chapter 4 beginning in verse 15.

Paul closes his letter to the Philippians by showing them that God alone is the one who supplies our needs, our rewards, strength and sustenance. See we often and this is the human condition we look at the things that are visible and what I mean by that we look at our bank accounts for one thing we see it rising and falling our stock market accounts if you have a stock market account that rises and falls not only money but also your refrigerator or your pantry You see it full and you see it depleted. What about our energy levels? At our peak in our youth, full of energy, full of vigor. And as we get older and older, that energy seems to be less and less.

But if we think about it, how we sustain ourselves as brothers and sisters in Christ, we know that that's not how we sustain ourselves. None of those things ultimately matter. What ultimately matters is how God sustains us by his spirit.

The Philippians gave. We're going to see in this particular part of the text. But though they gave financially, it was Paul refusing to frame their giving as human effort. Rather, instead, he shows that God is the one that produced the heart of generosity. In the Philippians, it was God that ultimately received the sacrificial offering. It was God who credited not to their earthly account but to their heavenly account. And it was ultimately God who supplies every genuine need. Genuine need from beginning to end. We see God at work from beginning to end. And so we see Paul is grateful, yes, to the support of the Philippian church, but he says not that I desire the gift itself, we're going to see in the text, but that he seeks for the fruit, and that word fruit is meaning profit which abounds or increases to their account. We're going to see what that means. See, Paul refused to make this about what they did. He doesn't mention much about the Philippians. But who does he mention? He mentions a lot about what God does and then but he uses this expression through them through the Philippians.

So today we're going to walk through Philippians 4:15 and Lord willing all the way to verse 23. We're going to see God at work.

So go ahead and stand with me out of respect for the reading of God's word. Go ahead and read silently as I read from the text. Verse 15. Now ye Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica, you sent once, and again unto my necessity, not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all and abound. I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you in order of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. All the saints salute you. Chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. And amen. And God's people say, "Amen." All right. You may be seated.

We're going to go through seven points this morning. Number one, we're going to see God creates gospel partnership and a support system for his church. We're going to see that in verse 15 and 16. Number two, God graciously credits our yielded earthly resources to eternal heavenly account. Verse 17. Number three, God receives sacrificial worship. Verse 18. Number four, God promised to supply every genuine need out of his infinite riches in Christ Jesus. That's verse 19. God receives all the glory. Verse 20, God unites all his saints. Verse 21 and 22. And then number seven, God unites us by his sovereign grace, reaching even into the most unexpected places. That's in verse 23.

So let's go at it. Let's start with verse or rather first point. God creates gospel partnership and support systems for his church. We're going to look at verses 15 to 17. And I want us to focus in on where it says, "No church communicated with me, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity." Here Paul reminds them of their unique partnership. First, by the way, this was the first church plant of the Apostle Paul in Europe and he was sent out as the very first missionary to all the other churches.

But he does not credit them. He does not credit them for what they have done. Rather, he credits God's work in them. We're going to see that. You see, it was likely that the Philippian believers were themselves being persecuted. And we know that from other parts of the text, such as in book of Acts, that they were persecuted. But they understood something very important. They understood that they must have the mindset of Christ. Remember that word for nail in the Greek? It means to have the same mind and the same mind particularly in Christ. We saw that Paul taught this to the Philippians in verses 2 to five in chapter 2. We don't have to go there this morning due to time, but that's where

you're going to find where Paul preached and taught how important it is to have the same mind of Christ. Basically humbling yourselves to be servants rather than positioning yourselves in as it were an earthly ways. And so they didn't take the persecution personally. That was the key point in that passage to not take persecution personally because if they did, they would have probably given up because imagine being persecuted over and over again and just feeling bad about yourself and feeling bad about other people and calling all names and swords. But they didn't do that. They took it like Christ didn't open their mouth. Didn't blame anyone. But remember that as Jesus is persecuted, so will his own be persecuted. That's what Jesus said. So they didn't take the persecution personally.

So they they were able to think about the gospel and think about we need to just spread the gospel. No matter how much we get persecuted, we're not going to think about ourselves. And they understood that most important point. And as a church, when I went there in the text, I told you this is going to be important for the advancement of the gospel in this local church. If we stop at taking things personally, we will give up. But when we put our minds outside of ourselves and thinking better of others, as the way expressed, thinking better of others, that they're not in Christ, that they can know Christ, and that those who are in Christ can grow in Christ and knowledge of him. that when we put our minds to that then God continues to work in this church and any gospel preaching church. Amen.

So the Philippians were not naturally generous. As I told you, it was God that produced this generosity in them. God produced that in them. Know that. Acknowledge that it's not from you. It is from God. God opens your heart. He initially opened it in salvation to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your only savior and lord. And by that then you treated his word as the authority and any commands that he gives. You are able to obey them. Suddenly the word of God isn't about someone else to receive it. But now it becomes personal. When you read the word of God, when you hear the preaching of the word of God, when you're taught the word of God, it is now personal to you because you have a personal God. and he speaks directly to your heart that's been now open by the spirit of God. And God moves then to support Paul. They put it in each one of their hearts to support their first missionary. And God sustained them through persecution, through it all.

Because in the early days of Paul's ministry, he departed from Macedonia. You saw that in the text. And yet no church shared with him in the matter of giving and receiving. only this church, the church of Philippi. We don't know why God ordained it that way, but this is the way God set it up that they were going to be the main support to Paul to the rest of the churches that he was going to go and plant. And so Paul was a faithful steward of God's resources. Yes, he was a faithful steward. He kept careful records. How do I know that? because he uses business terms such as account in verse 17 and then giving and

receiving in verse 15. Those are business terms. You know that he uses metaphors for other things like boxing and running the race. He uses them for an illustration. Again, Paul uses business-like terminology such as even the phrase where he says in verse 17, desiring fruit that may abound to your account. Literally that means the profit that accrues to your account. We heard that terminology all the time when it comes to business accounts, right? We want to see our accounts accrue not decrease. So he says every time that they're giving their accounts are being accrued, but he uses this expression later on we're going to find not to their earthly account but to their heavenly account. You see to reassure that the Philippians when they are giving their focus is not to remain on themselves but serving others that whenever they gave it was serving Paul and furthering the gospel advance but also advancing their own church for the gospel. They were inviting people to their own church and they were giving for that purpose. And so they connected the offering time to be as generous as possible. Whenever that opportunity came, we have this opportunity here, right?

Well, they also had that opportunity and they thought, how can I be the most generous with my funds? They weren't thinking, oh, how much how little I can give? No, they were thinking how much can I give because their minds were on other people. And when they did that, God accrued and maximized their accounts as they were serving others. He was supplying their very need. So by framing this receipt of their gifts through this metaphor, he emphasizes that the ultimate beneficiary is who? The generous church, the church of Philippi. They were the beneficiary. That's another term in business. And they were a beneficiary. But here it is. God is the witness and taking pleasure in their sacrificial giving. They were the beneficiary but God was the owner and he was giving them the benefit of their account being accrued. You see even when Paul went on to Thessalonica the Philippians sent financial contributions a number of times while he ministered there many times over. So it wasn't like oh you know he's representing our church. He was thinking about the church there. I mean the church in Philippi were thinking about the church in Thessalonica and how they can help that church out. So they were thinking outside of their own local church. Drawing from the commentary in King's comments, we see here that Paul refused gifts from other churches like the Corinthians. So that money will not be tarnished by the lack of purity in their work. As you recall in the church in Corinth, they had a problem of boasting in man. You remember that passage where not of Apollos, not of Paul, not of Cephas, but of Christ, but rather of God. And you see they were kind of saying, I I'm part of Paul. I'm part of Apollos. Uh but he was saying Paul was saying, no, don't boast in man. The whole point is not to boast in man. And so they had a problem. And so he didn't want to actually receive their offerings. when he was in the church in Corinth, he was doing tentmaking. He was working because he did need to support, but he didn't want to take their offering because it was a wrong motive. They had the wrong mindset at the time and they didn't even want to take he

didn't want him to take their offering. But you see the difference here in the church in Philippi. The bond that he had with the church in Philippi was uniquely orchestrated by God that the donor and the receiver acted solely because the Lord was at work within them. They had the right motive. They had the right intention for the gospel. They wanted to boast in the Lord. That was the key. That's the key to us as a church. Whenever we're giving, we want to be, as it were, silent, but we don't want to make mention of who's giving the greatest amount here and there. No, we want to keep that a secret because God knows in secret and he makes things that are visible, not the other way around.

So, think of a ledger because again, this is a business term. So, he uses as it were, if it was a ledger before our eyes. And what is a ledger? It has a left side and a right side, right? Plus and minus. And so when we view through human eyes, we see people moving money around in these ledgers. That's what as an accountant before. I've seen that many many times. We see money go from this account to this account, from this account to that account, and so on and so on. That's what a ledger is supposed to represent. But here we got to take our eyes off of the way we see humans operate. What we should see is through the lens of scripture. And what the lens of scripture is, we see God is the one balancing the books here. I want you to see that in the text. God is the one balancing the books. He's the owner of all the accounts. And he's putting money here and putting it over there where it's needed. And wherever else it's needed, he goes and moves it over here. The way he works is he puts a burden in our hearts, but he is ultimately the one moving the accounts.

Think of the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:19. One day, he's going to reckon the the accounts. He's going to reconcile the accounts. You know what? He's going to evaluate primarily not how much money, not how much money, but he's going to evaluate your actions. Was it to glorify God or was it to glorify you? Was it for your character development in those things that are Christlike or was it for your own character? How you can boast about yourself? That's what he's going to evaluate us with. Says God is the one who moves the hearts of a distant congregation to supply the exact necessities of a missionary and other churches. Think also like a river. A river in itself does not create water. Right? What is a river? A river is a channel. It's simply a channel and it flows the source. And who is the source? The source is not the Philippians. The source is God. The Philippians are the river where we are directing God source to where it's needed. Are we going to close our channel or are we going to expand to the things of God? that is in our control how we expand and contract and we want to expand to the things of God. Amen. And contract to the things that are ourselves. God knows our motives. He is the source. And if we close the gap as it were to the things of God, what is he going to do? He's going to stop the flow. So we want to keep that riverbed as it were wide as possible to the things of God to the advancement of God's kingdom through the gospel. The Philippians were that one that expanded their riverbed and God supplied everything that they needed

for themselves and for everyone else including Paul and other churches. We'll see that in the text. So they were a very extremely generous church and today we can model this as a church as well.

But always remember look at Philippians 2:13. This is the text that makes us understand this idea. What have I just shared of of a riverbed of of a ledger that God's the owner? It's verse 13 of chapter 2. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. That's the text. That's the text that they understood. God is at work both to will and to do of his good pleasure. So I'm going to open up to every opportunity for that purpose, for his will and for his pleasure to please God. You often hear me praying Lord not to please ourselves but to please you. That's the idea. We want our motivation to please him because he's ultimately in control of everything and we want to move his heart and that's the idea.

They were always thinking, "Oh god, I want to please you. I want to please you with everything. Just everything that comes to me, I just want to give to you." You see, that's what expression of love is. That's what an expression of God love is is to be open to God's love in this way. You see when we do when we when a church is generous like the church in Philippi we do not congratulate ourselves for giving rather it is an opportunity to worship God for giving through us. I take the time of giving as a serious thing. That's how we all should treat it. God can and will sustain the ministries of this church without having to manipulate you or beg from you. You see, we don't need to do that. I don't need to do that because God is the one who orchestrates the provision for his divine work. That verse 13, it's his will. It's his pleasure. So, I pray I never manipulate or beg from this pulpit and that I continue to support gospel focused ministries. That's the key. that that is the goal and that it would glorify God, that all of our ministries would glorify God. And thank God those who I've talked to already, the ministry leaders, you all want to glorify God. And so I know that whatever we we give is going to be to ultimately glorify God.

So then that's number one. Number two, God graciously credits our yielded earthly resources to an eternal heavenly account. This is more on verse 17. So that's part where it says, "Not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Paul makes a staggering shift here. I want you to take notice of it. He declares here in the text that he does not seek the gift itself. That's not what he was primarily seeking for. What he was seeking for instead was that he will be seeking for the profit which increases their heavenly account the Philippians church a heavenly account for their good deeds. He was focusing on them and so Paul refuses to treat giving as a simply a mere transaction. May God never allow us to think of offering time as a transaction. You see instead he shows Paul shows that God himself is the one who credits the heavenly account. He is the one that again moves the money ultimately to where the respective accounts needs to be held for a time. And so the gifts given to Paul were occurring eternal

dividends. That word profit is also can be used as dividends to the spiritual account of the Philippians. They're not seeing the spiritual reality. So Paul's making it clear there is a spiritual reality to when you give. And so he attaches this understanding that it is something that happens without you even knowing it, without you even seeing it. The transactions that are happening in heaven by God. You see, God is not the giver here, but he creates the fruit. He creates the fruit in them. in verse 17. And he is the one that is going to multiply the reward, the fruit, the increase to their account. You see, their temporal balance indeed has become smaller and smaller and smaller. Every time they gave came smaller and smaller, but here's the reality. Their eternal balance was spiritually increasing, increasing, increasing. That's another way he's expressing it here. It is one of the principles of the kingdom of God that you will be spiritually enriched by giving up your temporal means. We see this in 2 Corinthians 9:6. And I think by this time the Corinthians understood, do not boast in man. So he says this, "But this I say Paul, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully." He's talking about this spiritual account. The Philippians saw the investment of the gospel early on. We saw that in verse 15. Remember, 10 years in the making.

10 years from the day that Paul settled in Philippi to the time he is writing this letter, 10 years have passed. 10 years of this church Philippi giving faithfully and generously and sacrificially. They saw that this the gospel was a greatest investment of their money that they can use it for God gave to them and took the opportunity to support Paul on the mission that God gave to him and they didn't wait they didn't wait for okay maybe if Paul you know he do this amazing thing, then we'll give him a large large chunk of money. No, they were faithful. They were faithful. They believed in what Paul was doing for the cause of Christ, for the spreading of the gospel. And so, think about that. They didn't wait until they had the funds, as it were, in their accounts, in their temporal accounts, and then they gave. No, they gave during hardship and during persecution. A lot of times we think when that great time when I have the funds then I'll do it. God knows your motives. Be very careful with that kind of motive. And so he's showing us here in this part of the text how important it is to be always faithful to God. Imagine a parent placing money into a child's account. I'm doing that right now.

You know, the child is has no idea that this bank account has been created. My daughter Chloe, she doesn't even know what a bank account is. And yet, I'm putting money into her account and she has no idea. But one day, she's going to realize, wow, my account has grown. I don't even know what a big account is in. It's grown. And many ways, in many ways, that's how we are as children of God. We have no idea that God is putting money as it were, spiritual blessings as it were into our account. And the child wakes up as we as child of God wake up going, "Wow, this account is full." You see, the key thing is the parent child relationship. If you are truly a child of God and you're doing what God has

placed into your heart, which is advancement of the gospel, he's accruing into your spiritual account constantly as you're giving. Do you believe that that he is doing that in your life? That is with how God operates. He deposits eternal rewards into accounts we did not fill. We can't fill the eternal accounts. Can anyone in this room say you can fill the eternal accounts? All we can know is the temporal accounts that we have and how we use and steward those resources again ultimately that God gives to us. Just like that that child is the parent that gives. How do we use what God gives to us? Do we go back in return and do it for God's glory? So every act of generosity is God producing fruit that God rewards with his riches. And so why do we find joy in generosity? Why should we find joy in generosity? Because God is the great heavenly accountant. He is perfect in his accounting.

He is perfect and understanding our motives of our hearts which no earthly accountant ever prioritizes by the way. No earthly accountant prioritizes, hey, what is your heart posture when you're giving? You see, God every time we use our money, he thinks about our motives and he thinks about how we are glorifying God. And so God takes what is temporary and transforms it into eternal fruit that lasts. Think about that. Eternal, temporal to eternal. Temporal to eternal. And I believe that as Christians, we will be judged in the future event which is called the Bema judgment which is simply the judgment seat of Christ. We see this in Romans 14:10 as well as in 2 Corinthians 5:10 where as believers we will appear before Jesus Christ not for our salvation but for our rewards as Christians. The primary purpose will be to evaluate a Christian's life and works here on earth and will be distributed rewards at that judgment seat of Christ. Works done for God's glory will receive rewards. But those that are done with selfish motives, we see in the text in 2 Corinthians 5:10, which is wood, hay, and straw. Those are selfish motives will burn away and no rewards. Only those that are for God's glory will receive rewards. We don't earn our way into heaven by no stretch of the means, by our giving, but rather God graciously takes our yielded resources and credits them to an eternal count that he is the one that ultimately guards securely where no moth, where no rust, where no rot will ever deteriorate those rewards. So we do not build treasure in heaven. God is the one that builds it for us. Amen.

So let's go to the third point. God receives sacrificial worship. Let's look at verse 18. We see in the text, an odor of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. You see, the financial gift ascends to heaven. A spiritual transaction as it were happens and pleases God. A fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice. An acceptable sacrifice. Paul does not say your gift helped me. He says rather your gift worshiped God. It's a worship there. God is pleased. God not Paul is a recipient here. God not Paul is the one well pleased in the Old Testament sacrificial system. Every sacrifice was to provide a fragrant aroma and to be acceptable to God. So this is an Old Testament expression here. It is the same expression by the way this is deep that the word fragrant aroma you know where else it

appears is also used for what the Lord Jesus brought on the cross. This is huge. Ephesians 5:2 says this and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor. There it is. Here you can see the significance of your material sacrifice. Yes, it is a sacrifice. Absolutely. And Paul does not at all diminish that. And that's why he uses this very profound expression of your financial giving. In the Old Testament, the priest places incense on the altar and the smoke rose upward. The people did not smell it. God did. God did. And the priesthood emphasizes it's not for you, it's for God. And likewise, when believers give, God smells the fragrant aroma. Giving is not primarily supporting a ministry. It is worshiping God. Let us not stop at the ministries. Let's go beyond that. Let's lift our eyes to what God is experiencing by our giving. You see, we do not make sacrifices. God receives sacrifices. He himself enables. He is the one that created the system, not us. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, the sacrifice is what pleases him.

Number four, God promises to supply every genuine need out of his infinite riches in Christ Jesus. Says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." I use that expression genuine because it is out of the riches and glory by Christ Jesus. That's the only way it's going to be genuine. And so God would give increase in proportion to his infinite. That's the idea of riches is infinite, not finite, infinite resources. Not just a small amount out of his riches. No, an abundance out of his infinite account. Paul does not say you supplied my need so God will supply yours. He says God is the one that supplied my need. Interesting. And God will supply your needs. He never references the Philippians here. He goes directly to the source of the owner. And then God is the only supplier.

So we know that in this text Paul addresses the Philippians material needs which have probably been depleted to some extent because of their gracious gift. All the wealth of God is found in the glory of Christ Jesus. He makes them not focus again on their accounts. He aligns their hearts and their minds to the glory of Christ Jesus. Remember how I used that inference in the beginning? That's the attention I'm trying to grab here. That's the attention rather Paul is grabbing to our attention. Takes faith to take our eyes off of the temporal things of increase and decrease of the temporal to the ultimate infinite account, the riches of God in Christ Jesus. And we do that, something happens that supernatural takes over your life where now you're not bound to the things of this earth, but you now have this mindset of Christ that God will supply all of our needs in Christ Jesus. He did. He set the standard. We just need to fit under his standard. And so think of a child may hand a gift to a parent but only because the parent gave the child the money first, right? And so it is with God. We give because God already supplied us and then God continues to supply as we continue to give. Christ Jesus is the channel bringing that boundless supply down to us. If it wasn't for Christ Jesus to set that example, we would be hopeless. But brethren, we are not hopeless. Christ already set the standard for us. He

is the standard. He is the one that lowered himself. He's the one that humbles. He is the one that became a carpenter. He didn't become a king. No. How are we? We have our riches in Christ Jesus. But this temporal state, yes, it may seem lowly and meek, but in that heart, you have the heart of Christ because he was lowly and he was meek. So, brethren, think differently than the world. It's so important because we do not worry about tomorrow because God fills every need from his infinite riches. Are you connected to his infinite account or are you connected to your account? because his account is infinite. That's what this text is talking about. Riches infinite. The motivation for us today is absolute rest. When you think like this, you are at absolute rest. Why? Because you're no longer anxious over your accounts or what you have, but what God has and what he can supply you with.

So you no longer need to be anxious over your financial situation because as long as your mode is right which God obviously put that in you. You do get sensitive to the burdens of God and you do what he calls you to do because when he puts that burden you have to act upon it. Remember I share with you how to be faithful. It's in the now. In the now. He never says oh I'm giving you this opportunity. Think think about it. No no no. I've already thought it through for you. If it's genuine, it will be for you to do. Now, do we trust in God that way? When you read God's word, do you overanalyze it or do you trust his word for what it just says? What it simply says? I think in a day and age we have so much information, we can get into this what's called paralysis of analysis. We end up thinking way over, thinking too much into it and for God, wait, it takes faith. And faith is just trusting him by his word. Can we think like that as a childlike faith? That's what he wants for us. So if any seeming need is left by God unfulfilled, it was probably not a need to begin with.

Let me say that again. If any seeming need is left by God unfulfilled, it is probably not a need to begin with. The axiom of Christian faith is that whatever we do not obtain, we do not require. God himself is the only satisfier of the soul. Know that nothing in this world will ever satisfy your soul. We said that I said that in the last sermon. contentment in Christ. He is enough. So anything else is just whatever. Does that make sense? Therefore, we do not need to strive anxiously for one thing after the other, but rather we are already fulfilled. We have what is enough. So God will supply just because he is God, which means infinite fullness and delight in giving. So every time we give, we can give a joy. Now we can be that cheerful giver because we already are satisfied and out of that satisfaction we have joy in giving not according to our need but according to his glory and that's where we're going to go in point number five God receives all glory. Verse 20. Now unto God and our father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Paul concludes here with the communal song of praise. This is praise. Praise is the result from material given from one to another. One material blessing to another. And this is

quite different from all the charities in the world which always revolves around people. You ever notice that? What do I mean by that? Donations, behaviors investigated, statistics are compiled, reports are created, begging letters are sent, and the names of donors are published together with the amounts that they gave. Everything revolves around the honor of people. Brochures are distributed in abundance to persuade people to transfer their will and money as gift for a good cause. Organizations pay for mentioning their names in the brochure hoping to get a piece of the cake. Brethren, it should not be so in the church. What is given to our God in secret, he will repay. Matthew 6:3 because it is it gives glory to him now and for eternity. That's why he ends so let it be. That's what amen means. Paul cannot speak of God's supply without erupting in praise because he knows it is God that is the one that's giving the generosity into our hearts. It is God that is giving us the ability to give. It is God who is the one that is adding and accruing to our rewards in heaven. It is God that gave us the sacrificial worship. It is God that gives all the glory. And so God, not the giver, not the church, not the apostles, receives all the glory.

As a result, God gets all the glory, refusing to share with another. That's what glory means. He refuses to receive glory by no other. And so think about a spotlight shining on the stage where as these spotlights are. No one praises the spotlight. Are you praising the spotlight or that spotlight or that spotlight? No. They praise the one that illuminates, not me. God. Giving is the spotlight. God is the one illuminated. Not me, not anyone in this church. God. Every act of generosity must end in worship to God. We do not glorify the giver. We glorify the God who gives through the giver. And that's how this text speaks to us. And then verse 21 to 22, it gets better. Just gets better and better. God unites all his saints. Salute every saint. All the saints salute you. Chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. That's what I want us to focus in on. You know, you notice that he says even in Caesar's household, there were people who had heard the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God unites believers across distances, across cultures, across classes, across circumstances. God saved people in Caesar's household and Paul wants to make mention of them. We do not know what positions these saints in Caesar's household held. There were probably many, but we know in any case, it should definitely be an encouragement to pray for those who are in authority. Right? 1 Timothy 2:1 says to pray for all things to all men, including those as it were for us, the authorities of government. We don't know what God is doing, but we do know this from this part of the text that even they were saved. to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. God placed them into this one family. That's what unite means, into one family.

Yes, we are in different local churches, different areas, but ultimately we're all believers in Christ. By using the word every, notice the word every instead of the collective all, Paul declares that each individual saint is worthy of concern. When he said every, he was thinking about every single one. That's why he states it this way. He doesn't just say all

saints. No, he goes by category by category. Paul declares that each individual saint is worthy again of concern. He specifically knows that the saints of Caesar's household sends their greeting. And then this household includes possibly soldiers, musicians, accountants, and so on and so on. And some of these individuals had been led to Christ by Paul himself. You remember he was chained up by the Praetorian guard and many of them probably got saved and they spread the news to all the household of Caesar and then including the Roman soldiers as I mentioned chained up to him. And then what we see here illustrated is a tapestry. If you ever look at a tapestry and you look at the backside, it just looks like a mess. But in the front you see an image. And that's what God is doing behind the scenes.

It may look like a mess to you, but in the front of things, it is beautiful. And look around this room, right? How God put all these believers here today. And we would never know each apart from the gospel, many of us. But God has woven this amazing tapestry in this church. That God saved us just like he did save even the emperor's staff in Rome. It's good to remind ourselves that he is the one that redeems anyone the city today. There's no place where, oh, it's too dark there or oh no, they're too bad or or this or that. No, we got to get this mindset away from us. And that's why Paul reminds them, look, even this household of Caesar, the ones that are persecuting you, they're getting saved, the very ones persecuting you. The very enemies that they thought were the cross of Christ, God was saving them. So the profound connection that we see with one another is not built in today's day and age of social networking. That's not how God is ultimately wanting us to connect. No, the connections that we have exist exclusively those that are in Christ Jesus. And is God's grace that binds us and sustains us and ultimately brings us to our heavenly home.

And so we arrive at the seventh point. God unites us by his sovereign grace reaching even into the most unexpected places. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Paul ends with the benediction of grace. Grace is the hallmark of God, the fountain of all goodness in life. And we are constantly dependent on his grace. From grace unto grace as it says in John 14. Paul ends where all Christian life begins in grace and ends with grace. Grace saved us. Grace sustains us. Grace empowers us. And grace is the what keeps us. And so just like with oxygen in this earth, right, it's unfavored grace. And so grace is like oxygen. It's unseen. It's constant. It's essential to us. Amen. So just like that, grace is unseen. It's constant. And it's essential to our lives. We do not breathe in by effort, right? Do you actually physically think about breathing? It happens because God allows that breath in and out, in and out. Grace is in and out, in and out. God fills our lungs with it. And so we do not live the Christian life by our effort.

We live by grace alone through faith alone, through Christ alone. We do not preserve our own strength. No, He's the one that preserves us in his strength. He's the one that keeps

us. So, brethren, this has been so many good things. So many good things to grow through this book. All the blessings that I have heard from many of you coming to me and saying this part of the text spoke to me. this part of the text spoke to me and then the ministries and how it's changed to be better and discipleship and evangelism been cultivated in our hearts. I can go on and on and on. What this book has done and transformed not only me but you as well. And that is what preaching is about. It's supposed to make impact. It's supposed to make lasting impact not for our glory but for again for the glory of God and know that he is making an impact beyond the book of Philippians. Just because we ended a book doesn't end that part of our lives. So, I'm praying for all of us that we would take what we've gone through for these several months, remind ourselves of these things, have the mindset of Christ, and that we will live continually. And I want to end with the benediction now unto God and our father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Amen. Let us pray.

Father, we thank you for all of the treasures of your word. We thank you for every part of it and the impact that you have done in our lives individually as well as corporately. Truly, it does not return unto the void. Truly, you are the owner of our heavenly accounts. God, we have no idea how much you have done through this series, but we're going to see, Lord, part of that fruit from time to time. And I pray that we would just trust in you in your timing, not in our timing, in your good timing for the fruit to bear. I pray that you would truly create in us this everlasting fruit that all the things that we do is for the name of Christ. Whether it's preaching the gospel, hearing the gospel, spreading the gospel, giving towards the gospel sacrificially. I pray father that you would bless to our hearts that it is you that supplies every need that we need in Christ Jesus. And I pray for those that are outside of Christ. I pray for them, Lord, that you would have spoken to them. And again, that your word would not return to them void, but that one day, either today or someday, that they would come to have a saving knowledge, the Lord Jesus Christ, that they would know that it is him and him alone that can save them from their sins with this precious blood. Please bless all the messages to this end and we thank you. We love you in Jesus name. Amen.