

**Philippians 4:21-23 — “Final Words of Pastoral Encouragements to a Faithful Church!”****Introduction:**

- Paul's concluding words follow generally the same format as ancient letter-writing patterns but they show the distinctive WARMTH and GLORY of Christian love.
  - ✓ Paul calls believers to be actively involved in greeting one another with Christian warmth, tenderness, love and intentionality.
  - ✓ Paul encourages believers in sharing how the gospel has impacted the very heart of Caesar's empire.
  - ✓ Paul reminds them of the wondrous grace that comes from God our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*O to think of how God might grow & strengthen us at CFBC as we learn from Paul (1) **to greet** every single believer with warmth, intentionality and affection, (2) **to speak** of how the gospel is working in us & thru us, and (3) **to remind** each other of God's grace that saved us & sustains us & carries us all the way to glory!*

**THESIS** — In these final words to a faithful church, we'll see 2 Warm Pastoral Encouragements **\*so that\*** we can love one another & honor our Savior & be a faithful local church.

## **I. GREET EVERY SAINT! (21-22)**

*Every true Christian is a “saint” – a ‘holy one’*

The imperative: **Greet!** —

**Every saint** —

**In Christ Jesus** —

**So how do you greet every saint?** Some practical thoughts:

Some may be different, at a different stage of life or age, some may be critical of you, some may be immature believers, and in need of much growth, but as believers in Christ they are *SAINTS* and worthy of your deep warmth and tender affection and sincere love!

**Those of “Caesar’s household” —**

*Tertullian said that the Roman Emperor Nero was the first of Christianity’s major persecutors.*

Even the imperial power of Caesar cannot stop the power of the gospel!

*IN CHRIST there is no East or West,  
In him no North or South,  
But one great fellowship of Love,  
Throughout the whole, wide Earth!  
— John Oxenham.*

## **II. REMEMBER GOD’S GRACE! (23)**

*It’s as if Paul reaches out with his words to embrace EACH MEMBER of the church and to ASSURE them that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is WITH THEM!*

The grace comes **from** the Lord Jesus Christ:

We receive grace FROM God: for SUPPORT (Col 4.18), to STRENGTHEN (Heb 13.9), to SERVE (Eph 4.7), to BIND TOGETHER (believers) (Rev 22.21), at the THRONE (Heb 4.16), in ABUNDANCE (1 Pet 1.2; 2 Pet 1.2), in CHRIST (Rev 1.4).

**\*WHAT DO WE SEE OF JESUS IN THIS EPISTLE?**

1. Jesus is our **LORD** (2.5-11)
2. Jesus is our **SAVIOR** (1.29)
3. Jesus is our **MODEL** (2.1-5)
4. Jesus is our **GLORY** (3.3)
5. Jesus is our **RIGHTEOUSNESS** (3.9)
6. Jesus is our **HOPE** (3.20-21)

Conclusion:

**In such a Christ-centered epistle as Philippians, what are some take-aways for us?**

- ✓**HUMBLE** like Christ (2.5)
- ✓**THINK** like Christ (2.1-4)
- ✓**REJOICE** in Christ (4.4)
- ✓**UNITE** in Christ (1.27)
- ✓**LIVE** for Christ (1.21)
- ✓**LABOR** for Christ (ch.2)
- ✓**LOOK** for Christ (3:20-21)
- ✓**GLORY** in Christ (3.3)
- ✓**REST** in Christ (1.1; 4.21; 3.9)

***Praise to Jesus Christ in Heaven***

You were left, despised, forsaken  
 Man of sorrows, grief unspoken  
 To the cross our sins you carried  
 Struck by God so it was finished there

*Praise to Jesus Christ in Heaven  
 You in love for us were given  
 God's great mercy coming through You  
 Lamb of God who takes away our sin*

Pierced alone for our transgressions  
 Crushed for our iniquities

We like sheep have gone astray  
 For our debt the price You paid

Holy God was pleased to crush You  
 As the guiltless sacrifice  
 Raised in power You give salvation  
 God's good pleasure prospers in Your hand

Final Lord of all creation  
 Heav'n and earth will sing your praises  
 Lion of Judah, Lamb of slaughter  
 Of Your worthy name we'll always sing

**Marvelous Grace of our Loving Lord**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
 grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
 yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,  
 there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
 grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
 grace, grace, God's grace,  
 grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
 what can avail to wash it away!  
 Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;  
 whiter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
 freely bestowed on all who believe;  
 you that are longing to see his face,  
 will you this moment his grace receive?

**Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken**

Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
 All to leave and follow Thee.  
 Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
 Thou from hence my all shall be.  
 Perish every fond ambition,  
 All I've sought or hoped or known.  
 Yet how rich is my condition!  
 God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,  
 They have left my Savior, too.  
 Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
 Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
 O while Thou dost smile upon me,  
 God of wisdom, love, and might,  
 Foes may hate and friends disown me,  
 Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,  
 Twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
 Life with trials hard may press me;  
 Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
 Oh, tis not in grief to harm me

While Thy love is left to me;  
 Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
 Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Soul, then know thy full salvation  
 Rise o'er sin and fear and care  
 Joy to find in every station,  
 Something still to do or bear.  
 Think what Spirit dwells within thee,  
 Think what Fathers smiles are thine,  
 Think that Jesus died to win thee,  
 Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
 Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.  
 Heavens eternal days before thee,  
 Gods own hand shall guide us there.  
 Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
 Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
 Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
 Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.