

# Philippians

## Conclusion [4:21-23]

- **Greetings [4:21-22]**

- Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.  
Ἀσπάσασθε πάντα ἅγιον ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς οἱ σὺν ἐμοὶ ἀδελφοί.
  - The words “greet” are from ἀσπάζομαι (aspazomai) which means “welcome” or “greet”.
  - This word describes a warm welcome or genuinely friendly greeting given with love.
  - The phrase “every saint” refers to each of the believers in Philippi individually.
  - All believers are saints (holy ones) regardless of spiritual maturity and/or accomplishments.
  - Paul, along with the brethren with him, sent warm greetings to all the believers in Philippi.
  - Paul wrote these words so that every believer knew that they genuinely cared about them.
- All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.  
ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι, μάλιστα δὲ οἱ ἐκ τῆς Καίσαρος οἰκίας.
  - Paul then expands the source of the greetings to include “all the saints” – a reference to all believers in Rome.
  - The phrase “those of Caesar’s household” refers to members of the Praetorian Guard (who chose who would be Caesar), not Caesar’s family members.
  - Remember that Paul was well known by this elite group [1:13] and this verse makes it clear that he had led some of them to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Principles of Philippians 4:21-22
  - Paul’s affection for the Philippians is evident throughout this letter and he emphasizes that once again as he asks for each believer in Philippi to be given a warm greeting individually (“every saint”).
  - The believers who were with Paul at the time of the writing of this letter also sent their greetings.
  - In fact, Paul made sure the Philippians knew that all of the saints (believers) in Rome wanted to send their warmest greetings.
  - As we have learned before, it is important for us to express our affection to other believers as it will be a source of encouragement for them [Heb 3:13].
  - Significantly, Paul sent greetings from the Roman Praetorian Guard [1:13].
  - One of the sources of opposition for the Philippians was due to the fact that, as a Roman colony, there were many in Philippi who believed Caesar was Lord (the Son of God), not Jesus.
  - Paul wanted the Philippians to know that some of the highest ranking individuals in the Roman culture (which largely opposed Christians) were born-again believers who cared about them and were on their side in the spiritual battlefield.
  - This message was not lost on the Philippians.

- **Salutation [4:23]**

- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.  
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν.
  - As is common in the N.T. epistles, Paul ends the letter by highlighting God's grace.
  - This letter is framed by grace and peace on both ends [1:2 cf. 4:7, 9, 23].
  - In a few of his letters, Paul uses the phrase "with your spirit" [Gal 6:18; 2 Tim 4:22; Philem 25].
  - In Gal 6:18, Philem 25 and here, the word "your" is plural, but the word "spirit" is singular.
  - Some say that this means Paul was speaking of the Holy Spirit here.
  - 2 Tim 4:22 helps us understand that Paul was referring to each individual human spirit.
  - Further evidence comes from Paul's frequent use of the plural pronoun with the singular noun in this way [Rom 1:21; 6:12; 8:23; 1 Cor 6:19-20; 2 Cor 3:15; 4:10; Eph 1:18; 4:18; 5:19; 6:5].
  - Some manuscripts include a closing "Amen" here, but critical analysis tells us that these were added.
  - As with all manuscript questions, inclusion or omission makes no difference in meaning.
- Principles of Philippians 4:23
  - In opening and closing this letter (and others), Paul emphasizes the grace of God.
  - The grace of God is a core operating principle for the Christian life.
  - It is important to remember that His abundant grace is available to us because we are in Christ.
  - It is also important to remember to recognize God's grace provisions in our lives.
  - For the grace of God to be with our spirit, we must recognize His grace provisions and put those provisions to use in our daily activities so that His grace is fully operative in our experience.