

Philippians

Greeting [1:1-2]

- Author and Audience [1:1]
 - Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, Παῦλος καὶ Τιμόθεος δοῦλοι Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ
 - Paul starts off the letter by identifying himself.
 - He is the human author of this letter [2 Tim 3:16] and wants the Philippians to be confident that this letter is coming from him.
 - Paul then identifies Timothy, his beloved child in Christ [1 Cor 4:17].
 - Timothy is not a co-author of this letter since he is spoken of in the 3rd person [Phil 2:1-24].
 - Unlike other letters [Rom 1:1; 1 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1; Gal 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1; 1 Tim 1:1; 2 Tim 1:1; Titus 1:1], Paul does not identify himself as an apostle here.
 - This is likely because he was very close to and fond of the believers at Philippi and did not need to write this letter to them asserting his authority as an apostle over that church.
 - Instead, Paul and Timothy are both identified as bond-servants of Christ Jesus.
 - The word “bond-servants” is from δοῦλος (doulos) which means “slave” or “subject”.
 - To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: πᾶσιν τοῖς ἁγίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τοῖς οὕσιν ἐν Φιλίπποις σὺν ἐπισκόποις καὶ διακόνοις,
 - The word “saints” is from ἅγιος (hagios) which means “holy one”.
 - This refers to all believers, not some select group who are granted sainthood by church leaders.
 - The word “overseers” is from ἐπίσκοπος (episkopos) which means “guardian”.
 - This refers to all who watch over the souls of the people of the church, especially the pastor.
 - The word “deacons” is from διάκονος (diakonos) which means “servant” or “assistant”.
 - This refers to all who attend to various tasks so the pastor can devote himself to ministry [Acts 6:1-4].
 - The terms “overseer” and “deacon” describe offices within the local church, whereas the term “elder” describes a level of spiritual maturity [1 Tim 5:17-19].
- Grace and Peace [1:2]
 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.
 - This is the Apostle Paul’s favorite greeting.
 - He used this greeting in 7 of his 13 epistles [Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 2 Cor 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; Phm 3].

- He used very similar greetings, always including both grace and peace (grace always precedes peace), in his other 6 epistles [Col 1:2; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:2; 1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4].
- The word “grace” is χάρις (charis) which describes God’s unmerited favor.
- He gives to us on the basis of who He is, not with regard to who we are or what we do.
- The word “peace” is ειρήνη (eirēnē) which means “peace” or “harmony”.
- We have positional peace with God in salvation and temporal peace with God in fellowship.
- Paul wanted the Philippians to experience grace and peace from both the Father and the Son.
- The name of Jesus is mentioned 41 times in this epistle – once every 2.5 verses.