

Philippians: Fellowship of the Gospel

Study 21: Grace Abounding

READ Philippians 4:21-23 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Big idea: Paul's final greeting to his beloved church in Philippi is filled with the grace of God. In this study we will review and explore aspects of grace presented in Paul's epistle.

1. In vv. 21-22 (also 1:1) Paul calls believers "saints". The word "saints" means "holy ones", "set apart ones" and "sanctified ones". On what basis can Paul grant such a status to those in the church (see 3:2-9)? How does this reflect "grace": gained righteousness at Christ's expense?
2. How does Paul's understanding of sainthood differ from the common misunderstanding of this as seen in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, The Church of the Latter-Day Saints and other religions?
3. How important was it to Paul that those who are declared "saints" live in accordance with their "sainthood" (see 1:9-11; 2:12-13; 3:18-19)?

4. Throughout the epistle Paul has expressed his open-hearted love for the church. Identify verses where this has been evident. How are you adopting this approach toward your own church family?
5. What is the conclusion we can draw from Paul's statements in v. 22 regarding the saints in Caesar's household, in light of 1:12-14? How does this encourage you to not despise your current circumstances but to see them as God-ordained for the proclamation of the gospel?
6. One major theme in the epistle is the theme of joy (1:4, 18; 2:17, 18; 3:1; 4:4, 10). What have you learnt about the importance of joyfulness in the Christian life and how is this reflected in your attitude?
7. Paul's epistle starts and finishes with a blessing of grace (1:2; 4:23). In fact, every one of Paul's epistles starts and ends in the same way. What conclusions can you draw from this?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *the Lord for His sacrifice for you and loving rule over you (2:6-11).*

Pray: *that your love for His church and its people would be tangibly reflected.*

Commit: *to faithfully, boldly and lovingly trust in Christ to share the gospel with your friends, family and neighbours.*