

GRACE TO YOU; GRACE BE WITH YOU: Philippians 4:23

- **Philippians 4:23** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."
- **Philippians 1:2** "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

BIG IDEA: Paul opens his letters by saying, "grace to you..." and closes them with, "Grace be with you." Why? Because God gives His saints sanctifying grace through the letters written to His churches. Oh then let us think on the grace God has given us as we have studied Philippians!

I. Think on the *PRAYER-GUIDING* grace we have received in this book!

- **Philippians 1:9-11** "**9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

II. Think on the *SIN-CRUSHING* grace we have received in this letter!

I) You must let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel, standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side, not fearing your opponents!

- **Philippians 1:27-28** "**27** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, **28** and not frightened in anything by your opponents."

II) You must think like a slave, counting others more significant than yourself, like Christ has done for you!

- **Philippians 2:3-4** "**3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,"

III) You must work out your own sanctification with fear and trembling!

- **Philippians 2:12** "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,"

IV) You must do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent!

- **Philippians 2:14-15** "**14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent..."

V) You must rejoice, even if you are poured out as a drink offering for Jesus' glory and other's good!

- **Philippians 2:17-18** "**17** Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. **18** Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me."
- **Philippians 3:1** "Finally (*Furthermore*), my brothers, rejoice in the Lord."
- **Philippians 4:4** "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

VI) You must abandon all hopes of saving yourself from your sin!

- **Philippians 3:7** "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

VII) You must stand firm in the faith together!

- **Philippians 4:1-2** "Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. **2** I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **3** Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

VIII) You must repent of anxiety and instead embrace steadfast prayer!

- **Philippians 4:6** "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

IX) You must devote yourself to holy meditation!

- **Philippians 4:8b** "think about these things."

X) You must devote yourself to holy action!

- **Philippians 4:9b** "practice these things."

III. Think on the *HEART-LIFTING* grace we have

received in this epistle!

I) In Christ, you will be brought to completion at the Day of Jesus Christ!

- **Philippians 1:6** "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

II) In Christ, you have been given the gift of faith and the gift of suffering for Jesus' glory!

- **Philippians 1:29** "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,"

III) In Christ, you have been redeemed by both the humiliation and exaltation of King Jesus!

- **Philippians 2:5-11** "5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

IV) In Christ, God is sanctifying you for His good pleasure!

- **Philippians 2:13** "for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

V) In Christ, your citizenship is in heaven and Jesus will come from there one day to give you a new glorified body!

- **Philippians 3:20-21** "20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

VI) In Christ, you can be content, facing all things through Christ who strengthens you!

- **Philippians 4:11-13** "11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

VII) In Christ, you can be radically generous because God

has promised to meet all of your needs!

- **Philippians 4:19** "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

IV. Think on the *MISSION-FUELING* grace we have received in this letter!

I) Faithful laborers rejoice when the true gospel is advanced, period!

- **Philippians 1:12** "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. . . **18** "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice."

II) Faithful laborers make it their aim to honor Christ, whether by life or by death!

- **Philippians 1:20** "as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me."

III) Faithful laborers are engaged in conflict, just as Paul was!

- **Philippians 1:30** "[you must be] engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have."

IV) If we are to be faithful laborers, we must seek the welfare of the saints as we seek Jesus' interests, not our own!

- **Philippians 2:20-21** "**20** For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **21** For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."

V) Faithful laborers risk their lives for the work of Christ, and we should honor such as these!

- **Philippians 2:29-30** "**29** So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, **30** for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me."

V. Think primarily on *THE SURPASSING WORTH OF KNOWING CHRIST* that we have been

reminded of in this epistle!

- **Philippians 3:8-11** "8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

Pile up all the worlds possessions, all the worlds praises, all the worlds power, all the worlds profit, all the worlds physical pleasures, all of the worlds people and Christ outweighs them all! Christ outweighs them all! Christ outweighs them all!

BIG IDEA OF PHILIPPIANS:

The Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Philippi is laser-focussed on "the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:8). In this letter, he reminds the Philippians who Jesus is, what He has done, and what that means for those who belong to Him. Paul is pouring his heart out while sitting in a prison cell for the sake of the gospel. To think—one of his most encouraging epistles was written while in chains!

In Philippians Paul presents Jesus as the one who makes us saints (1:1), works in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure (2:13), and as the one who will bring us to completion when He returns (1:6) having secured our citizenship in heaven (3:20-21). In other words, He has justified us, is sanctifying us, and will one day glorify us to the glory of God the Father.

But that is not all Philippians contains. In this heartfelt correspondence, Paul explicitly reveals the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus personally. He proclaims knowing Jesus is better than being free from prison or free from suffering (1:13, 29). Being like Christ is superior to being selfish or apathetic (2:3,12). Cherishing the Lord exceeds clinging to self-righteousness or obtaining worldly gain (3:3-8). Being accepted by Christ Jesus the Lord is more desirable than living in the past with regret or living now for the praise of men (3:12-19). The great promise of Philippians is this: if you know Jesus personally you have everything you need for everlasting happiness. You can

suffer, hunger, be brought low or in great need—and yet joyfully face it all through Christ who strengthens you (4:12-13).

Jesus accomplished all of this by emptying himself of his glory, taking the form of a servant, and submitting to death on a cross for our sakes (2:7-8). Great was the cost and great are the promises he bought! May God use this study of Philippians to broaden our understanding of who Jesus is, grow our desire for holiness, strengthen our hands to serve one another, and deepen our love for Jesus as the one of surpassing worth.