

**22S22 Philippians 4:20-23 (Part 17) Blessing**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are finishing our study of Philippians with Philippians 4:20-23 (Part 17) Blessing.

Before we start, let us remember this short letter was most likely written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison in Rome. Paul had first visited Philippi during his second missionary journey, and he has great affection for the church in Philippi. This letter is sometimes called “the Joy Epistle” because of thankful and joyful tone. But remember Paul is in prison in Rome, not very happy circumstances.

I’m reading from the New King James version (NKJV) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let’s read Philippians 4:20-23 (NKJV) *<sup>20</sup>Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>21</sup>Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. <sup>22</sup>All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household. <sup>23</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

**Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your word from Philippians, help us see why Paul is so thankful and joyful despite his situation. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Typically, Paul ends his letters with greetings and blessings for the readers and from people he is with. Remember Paul has been in a Roman prison for some time, and he apparently was converting many of his guards.

So, let’s break these verses down a little more. Starting with Philippians 4:20 (NKJV) *<sup>20</sup>Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.* Paul is ending his letter with a prayer, as all of us should giving God the glory and acknowledging God for who He is. Amen.

But then Paul says something amazing in Philippians 4:20-21 (NKJV) *<sup>20</sup>Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>21</sup>Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. <sup>22</sup>All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.* Paul is going through is customary greetings, then he says all the saints in Cesar’s household greet you. Did you hear this. Saints in the household of Cesar. The pagan ruler of the Roman Empire has followers of Jesus in his household. Now we don’t know specifics. These may have been guards who had been converted by Paul’s conversations and testimonies. Or this could even have been others who came and visited Paul interested in what he was saying. Then ultimately becoming followers of Jesus. It is very interesting to me that the Apostle Paul was still evangelizing from prison, all the way to the king’s palace. If God can use Paul

in prison to reach the house of the king. Imagine what he can do with you, if you just say yes and do what King Jesus is asking you to do.

Then Paul ends this letter saying in Philippians 4:23 (NKJV) *<sup>23</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen..* Paul bookends this section first by praise God the Father and now the Lord Jesus Christ. And in between all the saints with him, especially those in the household of Cesar. What a great ending to this amazing little letter from Paul

Let's review.

- 1) Saints? Who is a saint anyway? Well if you are a follower of Jesus, then it's you. A Saint is Christian, a true follower of King Jesus.
- 2) Saints in Cesar's House? While Paul was in prison, he was talking and talking and writing and talking. Through this many conversations, new believers came to know Jesus. Many in Cesar's own household. These could have been guards or other officials or even family members of Cesar. We don't know but God was working in the household of Cesar and that's amazing.
- 3) Credit Who? Paul ends this letter with two short prayers. First all glory to God the Father Amen, then grace of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen. What a great way to end his letter.

Let me leave you with this, God can use your circumstances and situations in amazing ways. God used Paul in Prison to reach many. How much more us, without the complications Paul had. If we surrender our lives to God and do what Jesus is asking us to do. Then we will be used to do mighty deeds, incredible things for God, by God. This is the best life you can possibly have. Following King Jesus, who know exactly what we need to do to be happy, satisfied and content. Trust Jesus and start living the amazing life God wants for you now. Choose Jesus.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for this letter from Paul. Help us to read and meditate on this letter so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to do what you ask and not worry about what others are doing. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Thank you for joining me for our study of Philippians. Please email me comments or feedback. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.