

A Personal Greeting (Ephesians 6:21-24)

- I. **Introduction: The Power of Personal Greetings**
 - A. Thanksgiving Dinner in Iraq
 - B. Jesus on the road to Emmaus
 - C. Personal visits from the apostles (Rom 15:30-32, 1 Cor 16:5-7, 1 Thes 2:18, 1 Tim 3:14-16, Philemon 22, 2 John 12)
 - D. Personal hand-written greetings (1 Cor 16:21, Gal 6:11-12, Col 4:18, Philemon 19, 2 Thes 3:17)
 - E. Yellow stickie notes
 - F. Read text - Ephesians 6:21-24

- II. **What is the reason for the book of Ephesians?**
 - A. The general purpose for all time: *Shock and awe!*
 1. an epistle that carries us from *eternity to eternity*
 - B. Paul's intention in writing the epistle
 1. no doctrinal error or correction for sin
 2. Paul wrote simply (and sweetly) out of love for his friends
 - a. Acts 19:1-20:6 (Paul in Ephesus)
 - b. Acts 20:18-38 (Paul's emotional farewell)
 - c. 2 Cor 2:12-13 (Paul's anxiety over not seeing Titus)

- III. **Ephesians 6:21-22 – Tychicus**
 - A. *a beloved brother and faithful minister* - Tychicus in the Scripture (Acts 20:4, Col 4:7, 18, 2 Tim 4:12, Tit 3:12)
 - B. *will make all things known to you* – the first teacher of this epistle?
 - C. *to comfort your hearts* – how the church is in need of such men!
 1. Maybe you are a Tychicus? (If not, pray you would be one)
 - D. Paul's ecclesiology was not mere theory
 - E. Prayer, correspondence and visitation (PVC)
 1. Would you commit to using more PVC in 2012?

- IV. **Ephesians 6:23-24 – The Benediction**
 - A. *Peace to the brothers* (shalom, reconciliation)
 1. Based upon Christ's *peace* (Eph 2:14)
 - B. *and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*
 1. Peace is the basis for loving God and others
 2. Love and faith come *from God*
demonstrated in election, predestination, adoption, redemption
 - C. *Grace be with all those who love our Lord*
 1. Grace as the basis of genuine, lasting love
 - D. *Incorruptible (immortal, perpetual, undecayingly)*
 1. Grace as the basis of genuine, lasting love
 - E. The unifying nature of this benediction
 1. *"the brothers" ARE "all those who love Jesus Christ"*

- V. **Epilogue**
 - A. Ephesians has been a great friend to us
 - B. I pray that we would see the fruit of Ephesians in our church