

Philippians iv.20-23

First RPC Durham

I. Glory to God (v 20).**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) *Now* —
- 2) *To our God and Father* —
- 3) *Be glory* —
- 4) *Forever and ever* —

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Doctrine leads to Doxology (*Now*). (1 Pt 1:2, Psa 72F)
- 2) Obedience leads to Doxology (*Now*) (Phil 2:13)
- 3) The doctrine of adoption (*To our God and Father*) (WCF xxii.1)
- 4) God is all-glorious (*Be glory*) (Rom 11:36)
- 5) God is ever-glorious (*Forever and ever*) (Psa 145:2)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Our prayers are to be filled with praise of God. (Psa 106:1)
- 2) Our hearts are to be filled with love for God. (Psa 116:1)
- 3) Our words are to be filled with thanksgiving toward God. (Psa 136:1)
- 4) Our lives are to be filled with obedience to God. (WSC 1, Titus 2:14)

II. Greetings to the saints (vv 21-22).**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) Greeting one another within the Church
 - a) *Greet every saint in Christ Jesus* —
- 2) Greeting saints throughout the broader Church
 - a) *The brethren who are with me greet you* —
 - b) *All the saints greet you* —
 - c) *But especially those who are of Caesar's household* —

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Our vertical relationship leads to the strengthening of our horizontal relationships.
- 2) Congregations are not merely preaching stations (*Greet every saint*).
- 3) There is a manner laid out in Scripture of how we are to greet one another (*in Christ Jesus*).

a) As Christians (Philemon 1:15-16)

b) Affectionately (1 Thes 1:26)

c) Without hypocrisy (Rom 12:9a)

4) The Church is connectional (*The brethren*)

5) The Church is a family (*The brethren*) (HC 54)

6) The Church is catholic, meaning universal (*All the saints*) (HC 55)

7) Christ is going to be honoured even by the kings of the earth (*of Caesar's household*) (Isa 49:23a)

C. Uses from the Text

1) Our relationships are to be God-centered. (Phil 2:5)

2) We are to pray for unity in the Church. (Jn 17:21)

3) We are to pursue unity in the Church. (Phil 2:2)

4) You are to be always faithful in your station and vocation. (1 Pt 3:1, 2 Kgs 5:2-3)

III. Grace to the Church (v 23).**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ* —
- 2) *Be with you all* —
- 3) *Amen* — (HC 129)

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) The Word of God begins and ends with pronouncing of grace (*The grace*). (Phil 1:2, Mic 7:18)
- 2) Grace is only granted through Jesus Christ (*Of our Lord Jesus Christ*). (Jn 14:6)
- 3) The grace of God is infinite (*Be with you all*).
- 4) These things which God has promised will certainly come to pass (*Amen*). (Isa 14:27)

C. Answering an Objection. But can there be grace even for me? Yes, for Christ freely offers Himself to sinners in the Gospel! (Isa 55:1, 3)

D. Uses from the Text

1) Trust in the grace of God alone in Christ alone for salvation.

2) Make use of the Word of God, which conveys God's grace to His Church.

3) We are to go with the blessing with God in our work.

4) It is right and fitting that our congregational prayers conclude with a public 'Amen'. (Neh 8:6, 1 Cor 14:16, WSC 107).