

Theme: The apostles, slaves of Christ, wrote to God's holy people to bless them with grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## I. Intro –Overlooking Things – Sandy Purse

- A. Going in to a Redskins-Giants game
- B. Sandy had a large purse
- C. Attendant – that is too big – size shown on ticket
- D. Tiny print on back – who reads that????
- E. We look at epistle greetings that way
- F. Not good! – A lot going on here

## II. Paul's Apostolic Greetings

- A. The normal greeting in Greco-Roman letters
  - 1. Parts – Author, recipient, greetings (Jam 1:1)
  - 2. Sometimes a health wish or prayer (3 Jn 2)
- B. Paul's practice – modify, elaborate, Christianize
  - 1. Includes author, recipients, modified greeting
  - 2. Almost always includes thanksgiving & prayer

## III. Paul's Greeting to the Philippians

- A. Paul and Timothy – unusual and normal!

- 1. No examples in antiquity except for Paul
  - 2. Paul does this often (8 of 10 church letters)
  - 3. Timothy as co-author in 6 of 10 church letters!
  - 4. Shifts to 1<sup>st</sup> person (v3); Tim 3<sup>rd</sup> person (2:19-20)
- B. The title – not apostle, but slaves (plural) of Christ
    - 1. Does not call himself an apostle – no need
    - 2. The title of δούλοι – slaves (Greek vs LXX)
    - 3. Note plural – both slaves – unusual – 2:21; humility
  - C. The recipients – saints in Christ; with leaders
    - 1. Saints – not super-believers – 3 key ideas
      - a. All believers – note “all” – unity!!
      - b. God's holy people – Ex 19:5-6; Lev 11:45
      - c. Saints “in Christ Jesus” – all, but only in Christ
    - 2. With overseers and deacons – church leaders
      - a. All are saints – but not all are leaders
      - b. Leaders part of the church – not separate
      - c. May be some leaders in disunity (Phil 4:2-3)
  - D. Greeting – grace to you & peace from God/Christ
    - 1. Grace to you – play on words; central to Gospel; first

2. Peace – Hebrew concept; all is right; fruit of grace
3. From God our Father and Christ
  - a. God is the source – expected; OT idea
  - b. Jesus – exalts Christ; also “saints in Christ”

#### **IV. Applying the Word**

- A. Are we transformed by grace?
  - 1. A typical greeting transformed into grace
  - 2. Do we see that all is of grace?
  - 3. Do we bleed the grace of God – or law?
- B. Has Gospel of grace transformed our thoughts?
  - 1. Freedom – by being Christ's slave
  - 2. Saints – all believers – not a select few
  - 3. Humility – not rebels – willing to follow
  - 4. Leaders – those who serve, not lord it over
- C. Do we see the treasures given in Christ?
  - 1. He is our access to grace
  - 2. He brings grace and peace
  - 3. He makes us saints – God's holy people
  - 4. Embrace Him today!

#### **The Apostolic Greeting**

Philippians 1:1-2  
December 9, 2007  
???

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.  
James 1:1

1 The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.  
2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go  
well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.  
3 John 1:1-2

3 I thank my God every time I remember you.  
Philippians 1:3

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be  
cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who  
takes a genuine interest in your welfare.  
Philippians 2:19-20

22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with  
his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.  
Philippians 2:22

5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations  
you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,  
6you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the  
words you are to speak to the Israelites."  
Exodus 19:5-6

45 I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God;  
therefore be holy, because I am holy.  
Leviticus 11:45

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in  
the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who  
have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement  
and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.  
Philippians 4:2-3