

Where have you found undeserved favor (grace) lately?

What different aspects are there to living daily in grace? See Ephesians 2:8-10 and Romans 6:14.

How would you explain the concept of peace as found in the Bible?

How do God and Jesus give peace to those who believe in Jesus?

How does a person experiencing God's peace act and react to the various circumstances of daily life?

Where does peace come from and how can someone obtain peace? John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7

What makes this short two verse passage an excellent greeting?

How can we use the gifts of grace and peace to live out our identity in Christ, right here, right now?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 28-10

APPLICATION

How can you apply grace and peace to the circumstances you find yourself in this week?

With whom will you share this week the difference grace and peace has made in your life? When will you share with him/her?

MEMORY VERSE

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philippians 4:8

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// October 4, 2026 //

Sermon Series:
A Life of Joy

Paul Ewing
Century Baptist Church

An Excellent Greeting

Philippians 1:1-2

1. Intro — Philippians: A Call To Joy

2. The Letter of Excellent Things

3. An Excellent Greeting — vv. 1-2

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Community Life Group Sermon-Based Study

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Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a Community Life Group or Bible study. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is designed to facilitate interaction by diving into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. While this study guide can be used individually, the greatest benefit of growth comes when people are interacting with each other around Biblical truth.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

In your family, how important are greetings in affirming each other?

INTRODUCTION to *A Life of Joy* series

The letter to the church in Philippi is one of four written from prison (this time he is under house arrest in Rome) by the Apostle Paul. Founded on his second missionary journey, the Philippian Church was the first church established by Paul in Europe (Acts 16). This letter is a thank you for the kindness and generosity shown by the saints there. "It's usually difficult to capture the essence of a letter in one word, but in the case of Philippians, that one word is *joy*. Paul didn't write to answer any profound theological question, solve some knotty practical problem, or deal with a specific sin. Instead, he wrote to express and encourage joy. In a way, the book of Philippians is a showcase of joy. Like a treasure on display in the center of a gallery, joy can be examined from several angles to better appreciate its brilliance. Each of the four chapters reveals one of the distinct facets of that joy."

[Swindoll, C. R. (2017). *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* (Vol. 9, p. 11). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.]

READ Philippians 1:1-2

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Who was writing this letter to the Philippians and what was the relationship he had with them?

What was the purpose of this letter?

How had the church in Philippi helped Paul?

How does the Apostle Paul describe Timothy and himself at the opening of the letter? Vs 1

What is the meaning of servants/bond-servants?

What is the significance of his use of the phrase "servants of Jesus Christ"?

When have you been reminded recently that Jesus is our Lord and we need to take our lead from Him?

What phrase does Paul use to identify those who are receiving the letter? Vs 1

Who from the church is included in the greeting and what is the significance of naming the various groups?

What does the word saint (Greek: Hagios) mean? What does it mean to be a saint, for the present and the future?

In what ways are you living like a saint in the world today?

Paul explains briefly how God equips believers to live out their calling in verse 2. What are the ways he does this?

How do you describe grace to someone who is unfamiliar with the Christian faith?