

Philippians 4:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

Analysis

Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you (Ἀσπάσασθε πάντα ἅγιον ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς οἱ σὺν ἐμοὶ ἀδελφοί, Aspasasthe panta hagion en Christō Iēsou. aspazontai hymas hoi syn emoi adelphoi)—Aspasasthe ("greet, salute")—imperative for Philippians to greet panta hagion ("every saint"). En Christō Iēsou ("in Christ Jesus")—qualifier: those united to Christ. Hoi syn emoi adelphoi ("the brothers with me")—Paul's companions in Rome send greetings. Ancient letters closed with greetings maintaining relational networks. Paul's greetings emphasize Christian community: scattered geographically but united 'in Christ Jesus.' The command to greet 'every' saint stresses inclusion—no factions, no favorites, all are family.

Historical Context

Roman letters typically ended with greetings conveying social ties. Paul Christianizes this: greetings aren't mere courtesy but affirm spiritual kinship. 'Saints' (hagioi) are all believers, not special elite—positional holiness through union with Christ. Paul's Roman companions (possibly including Luke, Timothy, Aristarchus, others from Col 4:10-14) send greetings, demonstrating early Christian networks spanning cities and regions. Churches weren't isolated but interconnected through traveling ministers and letters.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul command greeting 'every saint'—what factionalism might this address?
2. How do greetings 'in Christ Jesus' differ from mere social pleasantries?
3. What Christian communities beyond your local church should you actively maintain greetings with?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάζονται	πάντα	ἅγιον	ἐν	Χριστῷ	Ἰησοῦ	ἀσπάζονται
Salute	every	saint	in	Christ	Jesus	Salute
G782	G3956	G40	G1722	G5547	G2424	G782
ὕμᾱς	οἱ	σὺν	ἐμοὶ	ἀδελφοί		
you	G3588	which are with	me	The brethren		
G5209		G4862	G1698	G80		

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 1:2 (Parallel theme): And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

Ephesians 1:1 (Holy): Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

1 Corinthians 1:2 (Holy): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Philippians 1:1 (Holy): Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

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