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| lo |  | Marttell SánchezOctober 3, 2021Message #1 / Philippians |
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**A Postcard from Prison**

Philippians 1:1-2

**The Back Story**

Acts 16:6-40

**Paul’s Situation**

Acts 28:16; Philippians 4:18

**Paul’s Christ-Centered Greeting**

Philippians 1:1-2

1. The senders of the letter: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

Philippians 1:1

1. The recipients of the letter: an entire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 1:1

1. The expressed blessings: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from Christ.

Philippians 1:2

**Big Picture Lessons for Church Life**

1. The work of the gospel can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 4:19

2. Christians aren’t meant to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

John 17:23; Ephesians 4:3

***Things to be careful with:***

1. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ commitment.
2. Playing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Avoiding gentle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Being a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Occasions won’t always be happy ones, but Christ makes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ worth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2 Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:7

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Acts 28:16; Philippians 4:18

**Paul’s Christ-Centered Greeting**

Philippians 1:1-2

1. The senders of the letter: **SERVANTS** of Christ.

Philippians 1:1

1. The recipients of the letter: an entire **CHURCH** of Christ.

Philippians 1:1

1. The expressed blessings: **GRACE** and **PEACE** from Christ.

Philippians 1:2

**Big Picture Lessons for Church Life**

1. The work of the gospel can be **COSTLY**, but Jesus is **WORTH IT**!

1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 4:19

2. Christians aren’t meant to be **ISLANDS**.

John 17:23; Ephesians 4:3

***Things to be careful with:***

1. A **CASUAL** commitment.
2. Playing **FAVORITES**.
3. Avoiding gentle **ACCOUNTABILITY**.
4. Being a **SQUEAKY WHEEL**.

3. Occasions won’t always be happy ones, but Christ makes **LIFE** worth **LIVING**.

2 Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:7

**For Further Study**

(Readings and Questions for Life Groups or Personal Study)

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**Getting Started**

1. Do you remember the first time you joined a church? What drew you to that church? What kept you there?

**Digging Deeper**

1. God designed us for togetherness and created us for community. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What do you find most encouraging? What do you find most challenging?
2. What does it mean to “keep the unity of the Spirit”? What does it not mean?
3. Read John 17:6-26. What lessons do you learn about church unity from Jesus’ prayer? In what ways does Jesus’ prayer encourage you?

**Driving It Home**

1. On Sunday, Marttell mentioned four things for us to think about as we pursue unity in the church. Which of the four would you like to see more growth in? What can you do to grow in that area?
* Committing to your church.
* Embracing everyone in your church.
* Welcoming accountability as something good.
* Avoiding a complaining heart toward your church.