



Daily Devotionals

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PHILIPPIANS 4:21-23 ALL THE SAINTS BY GRACE

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²¹ Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings. ²² All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ there is no room for discrimination and division within his Church. Jesus' prayer in St. John's Gospel is that all those who believe in him would be one as he and the Father are one (17:21). Elsewhere, St. Paul writes that in Christ there is no separation based on ethnicity, genealogy, culture, class, gender or physical condition (Colossians 3:11; Romans 10:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28). Scripture does not deny that we are all different, but declares that in the context of Jesus Christ all and any of these differences are rendered meaningless.

This unity is not something we can establish or force into existence on our own. As sinful human beings we are besought with self interest and inherently competitive and quarrelsome. The same nature that causes a Ford truck owner to cast dispersions on those who drive Chevy trucks is the one that divides the saints by brand of Christianity. Our human efforts at unification at best paper over our differences by declaring that we really are united after all because we all drive trucks. We merely look until we find something we seem to agree upon and then pronounce ourselves unified.

The only way we can be unified is through the grace of God, and that grace has been given in Jesus Christ. St. Paul refers to Christians as saints because we have been set apart by God for the work of God in this world. The work of God is to reconcile the world to himself and he has made that possible through the incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension of the Son. If we are truly reconciled to the one God then we are also united to one another. Therefore, we need the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to be with our spirit so that we will reveal God's will by greeting ALL the saints in Christ Jesus.

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP, p 255).

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