

Hopewell ARP Midweek Sermon

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Romans 16:21–24

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

²² I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother. ²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The Greatest Greeting of All

Main idea: honoring others increases the encouragement that we may have from them —especially honoring Christ, Who is God, but has given Himself both for us and to us.

Introduction: just as the apostle expressed delight in them that were increased by their honors, so now he sends them greetings from men, whose honor he commends to them, so that the believers in Rome might be even more encouraged. What sorts of things should increase our honoring of others, and therefore the encouragement that we draw from them?

1. The work of the gospel ministry, v21a

1. Timothy is famous in the gospel ministry, and precious to Paul
2. It is especially his work that is highlighted here
3. When grace makes a man into a worker (and especially a worker in the gospel), we ought to honor him for it. And if he greets us, this honor will increase the encouragement that we have from him.

2. Long-standing families of faith, v21b

1. “My countrymen” indicates something precious to Paul for their shared ancestry (cf. 9:3, 10:1), but he has also taught all believers to honor the natural branches (cf. 11:23–32)
2. There is a similar honor due for God’s gracious work in covenant families across generations. And we are thus the more encouraged when they welcome us and greet us.

3. Humble servants and growing students, v22

1. Tertius the only scribe whose name we know. Implication that he wished to greet, strongly enough, that he was permitted to include his own greeting and his own name.
2. His desiring and being permitted to add “in the Lord” indicates that as he has been writing, he has “gotten it.”
3. What a blessing when those who serve, and those who are growing, are moved by God’s grace to delight in us!

4. Those spiritually unharmed by much earthly means and influence, v23a–b

1. Gaius (probably the same as Titius Justus, cf. Ac 18:7), maybe the Gaius of 1Cor 1:14. Humble and generous in the use of his means. Didn't just host Paul... hosted the people and problems that came with him!
2. Erastus the treasurer. Maybe the same as the public works commissioner. What an encouragement that being a city official even in a place like Corinth had not kept him from grace and from delighting in the saints. Possibly delegated to give an accounting of the gift for the church in Judea.
5. **Those honored by other believers, v23c**
 1. Quartus is a brother. While other honors can add, "brother" is enough!
 2. Probably elected to the delegation for delivering the gift and reporting on it.
6. **The greatest greeting of all—Christ's, v24**
 1. Christ cannot be present with us. So He has given us His Spirit. But He has also given us His Word!
 2. His grace has come at the cost of His humiliation (incarnation, suffering wrath, death).
 3. At that cost, He has purchased His own blessedness and strength for us.
 4. He greets us through His ordained servants.

Conclusion: He greets us, Who our sure Redeemer is!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 16 verses 21-24. These are God's words. Timothy my fellow worker. And Lucius Jason and Sosa Patter. My Countryman greet. You I tertius who wrote this epistle.

Reach you in the Lord. Gaius my host and the host of the whole church greets, you Erastus, the treasurer of the city greets, you And quartus a brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be with you all. I'm

As far ends that's far this the reading of God's inspired and And Aaron twert. Last week, we had this. Concluding surprise exhortation. This urging. Uh, against those who cause Division and those who are occasions for Brothers to stumble into sin. To note them and avoid them and so forth.

But before that, we had had this long list in verses 3 through 16. Of Those whom the Apostle greeted. Those who were in the church at Rome at the time or who were with the church at Rome at the time. In whom he expressed Delight. Reconnecting by way of this letter.

And a delight that was increased in various cases by various honors. And now, he's not. Sending his own. Greetings to different people in the church at Rome. He is sending Particular,

greetings from different people who are with him. To the church, in Rome as a whole. And as he does, so he again Tells them things about each one who is greeting them.

That would increase. The way that they honor them, that would increase the honor of the one sending the greeting in their eyes. And this is not only because it is right and appropriate for us to honor one another But particularly in this context because we actually get more encouragement.

And more gladness out of being greeted by somebody, if we honor them. Well, I have sometimes heard complained of various congregations that they're not a very encouraging church. I always take things such things. The grain of salt you have to remember Or Proverbs 18, 13 in Proverbs 18, 17, not to judge a matter before you hear it.

And that the first person to State a case, Sounds right. Until another comes and asks some questions and this has certainly been the case. With respect to some churches that I have served. When I have heard someone say of one or another of them, that that is not a very encouraging people.

I wonder how could they have escaped without being encouraged? But one of the reasons is because they don't honor the people that they are not finding so encouraging. And if you treat people as small, if you think of them as small, then when they greet you and they encourage you, you will find their greetings and their encouragements to be small to you.

But if you honor them well and they greet you, they express their Delight in you and they express friendship towards you. Then you're having honored them will actually increase the encouragement that you get from them. And so the Apostle here as he is sending, greetings to the Roman Church from Timothy and Lucas and Jason and says to Patter and the rest of them.

And the portion that we have just had read in our hearing. He is giving them reasons to honor these who are sending greetings, not just so that they may properly esteem, those from whom the greetings come. But so that they may receive the greeting With more encouragement. They may receive more encouragement and gladness and help by the greetings that are given.

And this, of course, is most of all, Uh, true of the greatest greeting in the last verse verse 24, the grace of our Lord. Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Uh, there are many for whom that just sounds like religious jargon for you can go now or I'm done writing now, But the more that you honor, The Lord Jesus Christ, the more that you receive.

That which he has caused to be written in scripture as from him to you. The more that you receive the messages that he puts in his own servants, mouths to you as from him and to you the more that you honor Christ and receive from him, these greetings with which his word is filled.

More encouragement and help and gladness. You will get from them. As well. So we'll consider. Five different things that should or five different aspects. Ways by which the Apostle seeks to increase their honor, their esteem of the various ones who are sending them, greetings before concluding rightly. So, with the greatest, one of all the greeting, from the Lord Jesus, the benediction.

From. Of the Lord Jesus. Well, the first thing that we see, There to honor someone for is his work, and especially his work in the gospel Ministry. He says Timothy my fellow worker. There are many different ways that he could have introduced Timothy or commended Timothy to them. Timothy was certainly famous in the churches.

Uh, Paul actually names him as co-author of six of the letters that he wrote in the New Testament, He was. He was Paul's Protege. He often referred to him as his son in Philippians chapter 2. He wrote writes to that church. That there is no one else who is so like-minded as Timothy.

So when he sends Timothy to them, they should know it's like sending himself, uh, to them and yet for all of that and certainly Timothy is precious to Paul and uh, and he would expect them to receive pleasure from the that greeting as well. Him here as my fellow worker.

It is, especially his work. That is highlighted here when God graciously. Operates in a man when he works in him to make the man. A worker. There is something about the good honest work. That God makes a man of Grace to do restoring them. Doesn't he in the image of God?

When Jesus is working and particularly the, the proper Sabbath work that he was doing and he was accused. He said, my father is working and I am working. He was doing the works that were given to him by his father. And so when Grace makes a man into a worker, we ought to honor him for it.

You know, hard-working men hard-working, men are generally men of honesty, men of Integrity. They're usually straightforward. They? Quietly straightforward. But a good honest hard-working, man. Uh, his greeting is worth something, especially Especially when that is the fruit, not just of common Grace, upon him, but redeeming Grace in him.

And especially then workers in the gospel. Uh, when Grace makes a man into a worker, we ought to honor him for it. And then when he greets us and he expresses pleasure in reconnecting with us, our honoring of him will increase the encouragement that we have from him. The the second.

The second way by which or the second thing to which she expects them to respond by honoring. Those who are greeting them is those who are long standing, who are from long-standing families of Now, we say it that way because there's a little bit more to it here. Than just that they are Paul's countrymen when Paul.

Was greeting, those who were his countrymen in verses 3 through 16. And you may remember from a couple of weeks ago, that it just means someone who has the the same is from the same ethnic line. Yes. He has a joined shared ancestry with him when Paul was greeting, those who were his countrymen.

There was a special affection in that God, in his provinces has given you shared ancestry with certain people that That you don't have so much. As with other people, we all have shared ancestry when you get to know us, And that is something that inclines our hearts to them.

But Paul hasn't just written about his affection for his countrymen, you remember in 9 verse 3 and his desire that he could be even accursed in order that they might be saved, chapter 10, and verse 1, his heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved, but then he told us something else about his countrymen, Of shared ancestry with him.

And that was in chapter 11 verses 23-32. That the church into which we are grafted when we come to Faith in Lord, Jesus Christ is one of which the Israelites are natural branches. And not because it grew out of Abraham. But because it grew out of the Lord Jesus Christ, the one in whom Abraham believed the one who was the point of the Covenant that God had made with Abraham Ezra was always a covenantal people first and the shared ancestry that goes back is a covenantal ancestry for them.

And so we ought to Rejoice when those who are natural branches, when those who are elect according to the history of redemption, and chosen for the purpose of the Lord, keeping his witness in the world, and bringing his son into the world and giving his word and preserving that word and giving his worship, which anticipated the coming of Christ.

So that we might better understand. Even the worship that we have now, as it has been transformed by the con coming of Christ, all of these things are ways by which the Apostle has, Of the Holy Spirit to increase our honoring. Of those who are Israelite Believers. And there is for us today.

Now a similar honor due for God's gracious work in Covenant families across Generations. It is a blessing When the Lord gives us, To have friendship with and to esteem and be esteemed by to express Delight in and to be delighted in by those who are from multi-generational Covenant families.

The church is not like the world or it ought not be like the world. We moved to a town once that was not only 80 percent of one particular. Ethnicity. But we were told by those who had only been there for a generation or two when we arrived that you're going to have to be here for three or four generations before they start to couch you as one of them.

And, It was our, uh, Uncomfortable experience to discover. The truth of that generalization although praise God. It wasn't true of everyone especially as you can imagine those who are genuine, genuine Believers considered us their people as soon as we found that we were in Christ together And what a blessing then to be welcomed by them.

I was told a similar thing coming into the denomination of which We are currently a member which this, This church is a part a founding part as This congregation is older even. Than the official formation. Of our Synod that. Yeah, it's hard to get in with the Blue Bloods people would say, well, that hasn't been true at all with those who prize above all else, the red blood of the Lord Jesus Christ shed for us.

And this ought to be the case. And it is the case that when you come into the faith, maybe you're coming into the faith, from an unbelieving family, or you're coming into the biblical Faith, the reformed faith. From having wandered for a time in your own life, or your own.

Uh, your own family lacking that identity with the Covenant. People lacking that identity with Christ. Having uh, having joined himself to a visible body on Earth regenerations, and you come in and you might feel a little bit like an outsider, maybe the language is a little bit different and The Covenant household and so on.

And then those who for many generations, Have had this in their families, God has been gracious to And they welcome you. And you find that they are your people and they treat you as their people and. So what a blessing to the church at Rome that this Lucius and Jason and sissy Patter Paul's countrymen shared ancestry with him from Covenant families.

That go back. Many generations. They're greeting these Believers in Rome and doesn't, it doesn't matter if they are, Multi-generational. Believers who came from old Covenant to New Covenant on the day of Pentecost or whether they've just been recently, converted, but we should esteem those Whom God has honored. By giving them long standing through generations.

In among his Covenant people and worked genuine faith in one generation after another this is incidentally. A little bit opposite. What I grew up as steaming the church that I I grew up in if

you didn't have a really cool story. About how you are outside the church and into all kinds of things that scandalize.

Um, even men. And then God suddenly saved you in a way that impresses men. Then you felt like maybe your conversion was a little bit inferior. Until you grew an understanding just how much your sins even as a covenant child had offended God and what a great mercy and work of Grace.

It was that God had sent ahead of you like Joseph, but for many generations, Those whom he had been redeeming in your own family line to save you from Of his work of saving you from that sin, there is an honor. That is due to long-standing. Families of Faith.

In the third place says, who are and as we consider tertius here in verse 22, and we're calling him a humble servant and a growing student. We know from several of Paul's letters that he was not writing them with his own hand, except sometimes at the end, in fact, we have In one place where he says, see what large letters?

What large characters I write with my own hand as he's reinforcing at the end of At the end of the book of Galatians primary, message circumcision and her uncircumcision. Is nothing and so forth. So we know that he often used scribes and And we know that this is in part so that you would have nice neat handwriting.

With smaller characters and you wouldn't waste so much. So much paper. And perhaps other reasons but we discover one more of those reasons in verse 22. When a man is used by God as the Scribe. For one of the Apostle, Paul's Spirit inspired letters. God has intended to do something in that man.

You can imagine as he's writing it down and asking about the phrasing and asking which particular word which which particular tense of that verb and so forth and noting how a sentence relates to something that Paul just had him write several paragraphs ago. How close the Lord would would bring his word even to that, man.

And so tertius here. Uh, being the only scribe whose name we know the implication is that his desire to greet, the Roman Believers himself, personally was strong enough that he he gets permission, he receives leave from the spirit inspired Apostle to write his own verse. Uh, In the epistle, to the Romans in the book of Romans.

And so, I don't know what the Bible trivia question is, you know how many, uh, authors did the Lord use for For the Bible, but whatever it is sometime. If you're ever in that situation you can add one to it and include tertius and say Romans 16 verse 22 was his Uh the the Lord permitted him to say I churches who wrote this epistle, not taking credit for the epistle at all.

He's identifying himself as the secretary the the transcriptionist Uh, the administrative assistant, in this case described I churches who wrote this epistle. Greets you In the Lord even got permission for two extra words at the end, they're in curio in the Lord and he's really driving home, isn't he?

He gets it so much of the letter. Has focused upon Union with Christ, Union, with Christ through faith. The only way someone under the wrath of God could come to be righteous Righteousness, that he could not get from himself. He could only get from Jesus Union, with Christ, through faith.

The only way that the wrath of God is set against our sin can be satisfied, because Jesus is the propitiation for those who believe in him Union with Christ, your faith. The only way that That

we can come to offer ourselves to God as slaves for righteousness. Now not just having been counted righteous in the last Adam, but made righteous in the last Adam.

And so chapter five and chapter 6. Uh, Union with Christ through faith, the guarantee that we are not Condemned to remain in the body of death forever or to have our remaining sin and dwelling sin, besetting sin with us forever. But in Jesus, to whom the spirit has joined us.

And to whom the spirit conforms us as God has desired to do from before the world began. Uh, we are not only not separated from the love of God, but Those whom he has Justified who also glorified and then application. Of that Union with Christ through faith, really running through chapters 12 through 15, that just as God has welcomed us in Christ.

And just as Christ has welcomed us to himself that we might be United to the Lord. Jesus. So also ought we to welcome one another. And so tertius. Having been the Scribe through whom the Apostle. Uh, gave wrote this letter, the spirit carrying the Apostle gave this letter. To the He is able to convey even in his greeting that he gets it, and that he wants us to get it.

I churches who wrote this epistle. Greet you in the Lord. It is because he is in the Lord. That he is greeting them and it is because they are in the Lord that he is happy to greet them. Um, Humble servants growing students, those who are in Christ. Uh what a blessing it is when those who serve and those who are growing are moved by God's grace to Delight in us, you You often.

Uh, can tell or have an esteem. For I hope this is the case with you. Maybe I should have made it autobiographical since it's not directly. Uh, from the text I have often had the experience. Of observing that one or another. In the Was really growing in the Lord.

And then If along with that growth came an increased affection towards me and Delight in. In me, the fact that that was part of what God was doing in him would be and has been very encouraging to me. Just, If, if they were receiving this well and understanding what was going on, The fact that this churchess who had assimilated more Romans earlier.

Then much of the rest of the church for the last 2,000 years. Was moved. By what God had done in his own heart to greet them. Uh, what an encouragement that would be. And then those who are spiritually unharmed. By much in the way of Earthly means and Earthly influence.

And we're thinking here in verse 23, the first two parts, especially Gaius and erastus. You remember, Uh, this host of Paul in Corinth. Actually probably his whole his full name is Gaius titchius Justice. Because in Acts chapter 18, when they got kicked out of the synagogue, there was this man titious Justice.

Who had the house next door. And he became Paul's host and he's perhaps also, it's a common name, but Perhaps it is the same guy as the First Corinthians 1 verse 14, who is one of the three families Uh, in Corinth. Whom Paul had baptized. Uh he's humble and generous in the use of means it's not just that he was willing to use that, which the Lord had given him, his belonging to the Lord and therefore, for the Lord's sake, to host, the Apostle, Something very similar to what we have been.

What we heard about a couple weeks ago in the morning, sermon in Matthew and the Lord, Jesus is getting the 12 ready to go out and he describes someone who is glad to host. Those whom Christ, sends for Christ's sin's sake. As worthy. But in this case he wasn't just hosting Paul.

He was hosting Paul in the middle of a conflict. Paul had just gotten kicked out of the synagogue. There was a fair amount of opposition you There's personal and relational, and possibly financial, and civil costs to be paid for this. And yet, even this, man of means, Thought more of what he might do for the Apostle.

Than what it might cost him. Now, this is uncommon In those who are wealthy, it is often a very pleasant. Fruit of God's grace in those to whom he's given means of the world that they don't act. Like worldly men of means. They live and use their Their resources and interact with?

With men. As those who consider their whole selves, to belong to God, and all that they are some of you children are memorizing this week. The sum of the Ten Commandments to consider and interact with God. Your whole being belonging to him, counting him, the great pleasure, and the great purpose.

Of your existence and offering yourself to him. That way. Uh, well. This Gaius didn't just host. Paul, he hosted Paul and the problems that came with him and he hosted Paul and the people that came with him because there would be those Are seeking Paul's counsel or perhaps were were in Corinth from out of town and wanted to consult with Paul, or spend time with Paul and it may even be when he says Uh and of the whole church in verse 23 uh that it's referring to the meeting of the church.

The growing Church in Corinth, they're Gathering. At Gaius's house. Similarly, in this case, he's probably A man of some wealth as well but he is a man of some influence at least erastus the treasurer of the city. Recent archeology has Um, Has turned up from the same period and arastas.

Who was the Public Works commissioner in Corinth which would have been one level higher in the city government, erastus is a common name so it doesn't necessarily mean the same guy. Was even able to be promoted to Public Works commissioner at the time, but it could be, it could, it could very well be but what, an encouragement, That a man.

Could be in civil government even in a city like Corinth. A city that was so rampant in its sin, that the word Corinthian was a way of accusing someone of being immoral. And here is a treasurer. Uh, in that City. Who is still he's identifying him with CR himself with Christ.

And with the church, And he is being mentioned by Paul. Perhaps, as Paul was about to depart, he's already told us in Romans itself. He was about to go to Judea to the church in Judea and centered at Jerusalem and what was he bringing with him children? Do you remember?

It was a financial gift that had been collected in the church's. Of Macedonia, like the Philippian church and the churches of Ikea like the Corinthian. And if the churches are voting on, People to send with Paul as we know from With a new testament, the Apostle welcomed him to do well then uh it's probably Lucius and Jason and Stacy Peter.

They would be if they were pulse fellow, countrymen. The they would be good candidates to go and And see to it that this gift for the Jewish church was being administered. Well, but what if you had the city Treasurer? Wouldn't that be someone who is good at, keeping an account who knows?

How the the tallying and the reporting of where the money is going and, and that sort of you would have some experience That. But what a blessing when those who are in places of influence, even in a wicked, Yet yet, maintain yet retain their spiritual. Their Christian integrity and maybe not only useful in the church.

As a as this arrest just apparently, Was. But encouraging to those in Rome. And if you are a believer in Rome, and you're surrounded by the trappings of the government and the, the civil government, and the workings of the Empire, what a great reminder for them as well? That the Lord saves even from among such men and makes imminent Saints even among such men.

And so those spiritually unharmed by much Earthly means and influence in the last place. A man that the only thing that he tells us about is quartus a brother. And if that's it, While other honors can add other things, can add to a man's honor. The title brother is a title of Honor, all by itself.

The fact that there are varying degrees and the fact that honor is to be given for those degrees must not take away in our mind. Whether it's about our own self. Well, I'm just a brother, I'm just a sister. Well, Of the things that are described character and usefulness and hard work, and growth and Grace, any just a brother or just a sister can Can by God's grace attained to those but there's no just Just a brother, just a sister.

One of you recently replied when When you had asked about, What was going to happen at camp next week. And I said, well, Monday night is just an ice cream social Uh and the reply came. Well, I wouldn't use the word just with an ice cream social Uh, well, don't use the word just with a brother or a sister that quartus is a brother and he's probably, he's probably a brother who has been delegated by his church.

To go with Paul part of the company. That that is preparing uh, to set out. And when other believers, Have have esteemed and honored a brother in that way. That should increase. For us, their honor and our eyes as well. And so, praise God. As he shows us here, that one of the ways that we may be more encouraged.

By those, in his church is by honoring them. Well in response to what the Lord has done in their lives, the more that we honor them the more strength and comfort and gladness and encouragement, we will get from their greeting us. These men could not be in Rome. And so they send, greetings.

By the dictation of Paul and the pen. Of churches. But there is another There is another who could not bodily be in Rome at the time. And from him, comes the greatest, greeting of all. Your children are very well instructed and you are very bright. If I ask you from whom, do you think the greatest greeting that you could ever get?

From whom would that come and immediately you would say God Jesus and you would be exactly right. You'll be exactly right? The Lord, Jesus. When he was preparing his disciples for his departure, Those whom he was going to whom he had called from among his other disciples as those who are Apostles.

You remember he said that it was It was good for them that he depart because he was going to send his spirit. And so that's one thing that the Lord Jesus being bodily removed because he ascended into heaven, and he took his seat. And what what we sometimes, just call Heaven in the Bible.

And sometimes in the Bible, it's called the third heaven, or the highest Heaven. And and his Spirits Ministry to them, would remind them would Minister to them comfort and strengthen and gladden them even in the bodily. Absence of the Lord Jesus Christ, Christ cannot be present with us. So he has given us.

Also his holy spirit, many times Heaven tweeted. To those precious promises that he hasn't left us as orphans that his Spirit has come. Not just to be with us, but to dwell in us and that by his Spirit, even the father and the son have come. And made their home with us.

But the Lord Jesus has also given his word. The, the Apostle here on the heels, Of these greetings. Now it says something similar to what he said in last. At the end of last week's portion, he said the God of Peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. Well how is that going to happen?

How is God going to do it when it's our feet? Well we heard last week because the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us. The Christian does what he does by the strength of Christ. His grace being not just blessing for those who have only weakness in themselves but also strength, sorry.

Blessing for those who deserve only curse in themselves but also strength, for those who have only weakness in themselves and here then he's given us the greetings of of all of these others and the same sentence That comes by way of greeting, now blessing for Um, who are receiving this blessing for you?

For it is written. Also for you not just for the church at Rome, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all. He he is not here. Uh, physically, he's not bodily present to us, just like he wasn't bodily present to Rome, but he by his Apostle sent them in the place of his being able to be physically with them his own greeting by his own Apostle.

Has given us his spirit in his absence, but he's also given us his word in his absence. I hope that you receive the whole Bible then, as from the Lord Jesus. In this way, the Old Testament is very specifically from Jesus as well. First Peter chapter 1 says that it was by the spirit of Christ that the prophets who wrote the Old Testament were writing.

Your Redeemer, who if you are a Believer. Well, actually, even if you're not, you will physically see him. Oh, we'll see him. But if you are a Believer, you will, you will be able physically to be with him and to embrace him and have the blessedness. Of four fellowship with him in that way.

But while we wait, while he can't be here with us bodily, just like Paul couldn't yet be in Rome bodily. Nor any of these others who had sent the greetings. The Lord Jesus gives you his word and he greets. You not just by expressing his Delight in. You certainly there is that But his word is not the same as getting a letter from someone that is far away or an email or whatever it is.

Letters are better. You can. Uh, well, we won't go into that but It's not, uh, it's not the same. Because they can communicate something to you. They can reveal a little of themselves to you. The Lord Jesus does much more than that with his word though, doesn't he? Because his word is living inactive, and his word is attended by the power of His.

Holy So when you read in your Bible or when you hear read from the Bible, and especially if you have hear his ordained servant in whom he's worked by his Spirit, whom he has called to that Ministry as his representative to announce, uh, to you the Lord Jesus, attends, all of those things, by the work of his holy spirit, and he actually uses his word to work his grace in you.

It is his word by which he gives Faith. We heard that just a few chapters ago, faith comes by hearing it is his word by which he sanctifies us. It is his implanted word which is able to save our souls. It is his word which he has breathed out, which is able to equip us for every good work.

And so, when he gives us this, Um, it is, it is like in In form or style greeting, from from him. As he can't be here physically with us, but even more than that, it is something by which he powerfully Works in. Now, his grace has come. At Great costs to him.

It is precious here. He uses Uh, both his titles. Lord and Christ along with his name, Jesus. In reminding us of who he is in his Everlasting being. What he came to do, is to save his people from his sins and who he is as the mediator. As the god, man, the Christ, the anointed A priest offered himself for us and prays for us, the king who has subdued us to himself and will destroy all of his and our enemies, including crushing Satan under our feet.

But in this particular case, his anointing also as our Prophet, The one from whom this letter ultimately comes. Um, tertius being Paul. Paul's pen as it were is much closer. To Paul then Paul being for us the mouthpiece of Christ. The letter is ultimately from the Lord Jesus. Isn't it?

And so his grace has come at the cost of his Incarnation of his suffering. God's Wrath for us. On the cross of his dying. And going under the humiliation of death. But at that cost he has purchased for us the blessedness. That is opposite what we deserve and the strength.

That is the opposite. Uh, what we are and he greets us through his ordained servants. Did you know children that that's what's happening at the end of the public worship service? That it's not the pastor. Who is greeting us and dismissing? Uh, the reason the pastor does it is because he's an ordained servant, he's a mouthpiece.

The Lord Jesus declares his Blessing upon us. And, He greets. And to paraphrase or or play on the words of that sweet Reformation hymn. I greet thee whom. I sure Redeemer Art expressing our Delight in an adoration of the Lord Jesus. It is also a Bible truth and it is this Bible truth.

In verse 24 that he greets. You, he greets thee singular Who your Shore? Redeemer is The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Be with you all. And that is the greatest greeting. That any of us can have. Oh man.