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## GLORY TO GOD

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Here we are at the end of chapter four, the conclusion of Paul's letter. He has spent verse after verse reminding the Philippian believers of the doctrines he taught them while he was with them, commending them for their love towards him, and he is finally drawing his letter to a close.

Here are our verses for today. Philippians 4:20-23 says,

“Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

In verse 20 Paul closes his letter by giving glory to God. His desire is that God will be glorified forever and ever, or unto the ages of the ages. This term is used to express something everlasting. Although God is eternal, His interaction with humans is everlasting. God had no beginning and has no end, so He is eternal. Man had a beginning and will have no end. He is everlasting. Paul desires glory to God from everlasting to everlasting.

The finale of his letter is a personal salutation. He asks the Philippians to greet all the believers on his behalf. He also tells them that the believers he is with greet them. Those who are in “Caesar's household” are those who are citizens of Rome. Remember, at the time Paul is writing, he is under house arrest in Caesar's household in Rome. (Acts 28:14-31) Guards and others he came in contact with in the household were saved by Paul's testimony and sharing of the gospel. They became fellow believers.

Take a moment to think about Paul's testimony. He was persecuted, beaten, arrested, imprisoned, put on house arrest, tried in court, chained to a guard 24 hours a day, and so

much more! Yet, what was his message? Spread the Gospel! Joy despite circumstances! Gratitude to God for his position in Christ! How much less do we face and so quickly lose hope? What an amazing example of faith in God's Word! Paul lived out his calling and found joy in all of his circumstances because the truth of God's word governed his thought process.

Finally, Paul ends his letter by desiring the grace of Christ to abide with their spirits.

Remember, Paul began this letter with grace and peace. Here he ends with grace. Perhaps because in all the learning Paul did, he found that grace made joy possible.

Here ends Paul's letter of joy, encouragement and thanksgiving. Sometimes it is easy for us to be cynical about the attitudes of the people around us, or the direction our country is going, or the constant decline of morals, but Paul's letter is a great reminder that the Christian life can be one of joy when we operate according to the principles of God's Word. We can have fellowship and comradery with other believers when we are like minded.

Let us focus on glorifying God in our lives through fellowship with Him and harmony with other believers. We can have joy because we know who we serve and are redeemed because of what He did. Thank you Lord!

**Write a list of the things that bring joy into your life. End by thanking God for them.**

REVIEW

~ Paul gives all the glory to God.

~ God is eternal. Man is everlasting.

~ Where ever Paul goes, he preaches the gospel.

~Philippians is a book of encouragement, thanksgiving and joy.