

Greet the Saints  
SR: Rom. 16:1-7

- I. Introduction
  - a. In nearly 2/3rds 13 of the 21 epistles personal greetings are included as the NT writer communicates the love and regard of brethren in one place to those elsewhere – nearly the whole 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans
  - b. Many of you know that I spent much of last week in Florida attending the annual lectures at Florida College
  - c. While I was there I met many brethren who know and love you and who send their greetings
  - d. It may seem unusual, but I am going to devote much of our lesson this morning sharing with you the greetings and reports of some of the brethren with whom I had some contact this past week
- II. General Greetings
  - a. 3 John 1:4-8 – Rejoice in hearing of their continued faithfulness
  - b. Tyler Rice
  - c. Ian Rice
  - d. Brad Sullivan
  - e. Erin Petty
  - f. Dale Dye
  - g. Emily King
  - h. Wilson Adams –
  - i. Ed Smith – our congregation supported him in Michigan and Africa – met at Annandale last December – now in Paris, TN
  - j. Dale Pinnock
  - k. Pam Walker
- III. Reports of the Lords work in the US
  - a. Colton McDaniel – Freshmen, son of friends of Rachel’s parents, came to our wedding at 9yo, now a freshman at FC. Friendly and outgoing, Noticed he was at all the lecture events. I commended him, he gave me his card. Evangelist – His parents just moved to Fiji to preach the gospel there.
  - b. Ricky Shanks – Charleston, SC – Presented to us last year, am using several of his suggestions, Showed him my measuring tape, he said he was encouraged because in his experience most Christians and even many preachers are not interested in evangelism. I introduced him to Colton McDaniel.
  - c. Ray Hinds & Kerry Keenan – Evangelism in Tampa, FL – Temple Terrace congregation continues to grow, nearly 500 – a significant portion of that growth is through conversion of family, friends and acquaintances of current members
- IV. The Lord’s work in other countries
  - a. Pray for them - Ephesians 6:17-22
    1. V.J. Benson – India

2. David Tant – I saw him in Axton, VA in the early fall, and in D.C. in November, he had been to Jamaica between those two meetings, and travels elsewhere as well.
  3. Dennis Allan – in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- b. Praise to God
1. Columbia work – as reported by Royce Chandler, Carlos Restrepo, his 95 theses at age 14, fleeing from his hometown, arrested for delivering drugs, indirectly influenced by imprisoned American anarchist, converted, deported, plea for help, growth of church in Columbia to nearly 60 congregations and thousands of Christians. - Romans 15:18-21
  2. Jeff Carr – Foreign evangelism at home – His work at Texas A&M – Corpus Christie. Idioms class with foreign students, results in many opportunities to befriend, love, serve and teach students from all over the world. Several conversions have resulted. Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, China, Bolivia, and many others - 1 Thessalonians 1:6-9
  3. Church in Bolivia – Esteban Perez came in contact with Jeff Carr through his on-campus work. His father and uncle had left the Catholic church, because they saw it to be corrupt and unscriptural. They looked for the truth in other churches and ended up just trying to follow the Bible, were baptized for their sins and practice New Testament Christianity. No preacher was sent to them, they just acted on the word of God in faith, resulting in the church - Ephesians 3:20-21
- c. Sympathy and Love
1. Murder in church in Mexico – Gardner Hall - 1 Peter 5:8-11
  2. Bob Buchanan on Christians in Namibia – Chicken offered, could not be refused “You are not used to going without food”, bones desired, sister died of malnutrition - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

## V. Conclusion

- a. All of this is a very small portion of what the Lord is doing through His people through our nation and the world.
  1. A few saints
  2. Together for a few days
  3. With limited opportunities to share
- b. Invitation – becoming a Christian connects you not only with God’s people in this place, but with God’s people at every place and time, these people and places we have talked about may be unknown to you, but these Christian are our brethren no less than those sitting on the same bench with us this morning, along with the entire clouds of witnesses of God’s faithful throughout human history, none righteous, but all saved by grace through obedient faith.
- c.

Romans 16:1-7 NKJV I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, 2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. 6 Greet Mary, who labored much for us. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Romans 16:21-27 NKJV 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. 25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith-- 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Philippians 2:25-30 NKJV 25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; 26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-9 NKJV 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 ESV 1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in

a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-- 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Romans 15:18-21 NKJV For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient-- 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, 21 but as it is written: "TO WHOM HE WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, THEY SHALL SEE; AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:8-11 NKJV Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

3 John 1:4-8 NKJV I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, 7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

Ephesians 6:17-22 NKJV And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. 21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; 22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

