

“New Testament Greetings”

(A Tribute of Character)

Introduction:

- 1. A greeting is an important thing. It usually sets the tone for the rest of the conversation, whether by letter, or by word.**
- 2. In Acts 2, after the first people were baptized into Christ, as a result of “gladly receiving the word” we find how they developed spiritually in Christ.
Acts 2:42, 44-46**
- 3. In time, these Jews went back to their home territory where churches were eventually established by the help of the apostle Paul and others.**
 - A. These various churches gained a reputation by the influence of the brethren that made up that particular church.**
- 4. This morning we are going to look at various New Testament greetings and then look at some ways that the church here can be the recipient of good, positive, and faithful greetings.**

New Testament Greetings:

1. To the church in Rome:

Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that **your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**

2. To the church in Corinth:

1 Cor 1:11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that **there are contentions among you.**

3. To the church in Galatia:

Gal 1:6 marvel that you are **turning away** so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, **to a different gospel,**

4. To the church in Ephesus: (61-62 A.D.)

Eph 1:15-16 Therefore I also, after I heard of your **faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints**, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: — **But later:**

Revelation 2:2-5 (95-96 A.D.)

5. To the church in Philippi:

Phil 1:3-6 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your **fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now**, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

6. To the church in Colossae:

Col 1:4-6 since we **heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and of **your love for all the saints**; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is **bringing forth fruit**, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

7. To the church in Thessalonica:

1 Thessalonians 1:2-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

8. To the church in Smyrna:

Revelation 2:9-10

9. To the church in Pergamos:

Revelation 2:13-16

10. To the church in Thyatira:

Revelation 2:19-21

11. To the church in Sardis

Revelation 3:1-2

12. To the church in Philadelphia

Revelation 3:8

13. To the church in Laodicea

Revelation 3:15-17

In all cases, each church became known individually, based on the collective faithfulness of the saints within.

To the San Juan church of Christ:

1. We have learned about the reputation of many first century churches. The Character of a congregation is very important to the community and to Christ.
2. Let's look at some ways in which the church here can possess a good character and will receive positive greetings of faithfulness, **learning from NT churches.**

A. Develop faith

Rom 10:17; 2 Tim 2:15

B. Learn to have a sincere love of the brethren

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

C. Remain Steadfast in the Lord and Work

1 Corinthians 15:58

Heb 3:14 For we **have become partakers of Christ** if we hold the beginning of our confidence **steadfast to the end,**

D. Be supportive of those that are preaching and teaching the gospel

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

E. Share Jesus with Others

- 1) **Must first abide in Christ to do so.**

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

F. Be encouraging and edifying to one another

Rom 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

- 1) **Send cards, letters, phone calls**
- 2) **Let others know that you appreciate them and the work that they are doing.**

G. SHOW others that Jesus really is important to you by:

- 1) **Wanting to be in Bible class**
- 2) **Wanting to be at every assembly**
- 3) **Having Bible lessons completed**
- 4) **Being on time and being friendly**
- 5) **Greeting not only the brethren, but also the visitors**

H. Be Hospitable

1 Pet 4:8-9 And **above all things** have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

Conclusion:

- 1. **Every one always likes to hear good things said about them.**
- 2. **The Lord's church is no different. Let's strive together to do our best for the Lord so the church here will have a favorable greeting from others.**

Invitation:

Place	_____	Date	_____
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