



**SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, June 30, 2021**

**Scripture: Philippians 4:20-23**

**NC0190**

**TITLE: Dropping the Baggage**

What words carry baggage? A few come to mind quickly: slavery. That is a word with worldwide and long-time baggage. In the Christian community, a word like "submit" makes us groan. It has baggage. But what about some lighter terms, like "angel"? That is a word that has the baggage of fluff and misconceptions. Even a word like "love" can bring a lot of wrong ideas, and is often thrown around with little regard.

But there's something Paul says in the last few words of his Philippian letter that has some baggage today? What's that word? Let's wrap up our series to find out in Philippians 4:20-23 (ESV):

To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>21</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. <sup>22</sup> All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

<sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

You're probably thinking, "What is the word? I didn't hear anything unusual there." Well, Paul uses the word "saint." You may not have thought about it, but saint is a word with baggage. The baggage is confusion, inflation, and misinformation.

Today, when you hear the word "saint," what comes to mind? Is it a football team or mascot? Is it someone who does a lot of good works? Is it a guy who wears a red suit and steals your cookies and milk? The word saint comes from the same word we get the word "holy", or term, "set apart." It means holy ones. It has nothing tied to a football team, or someone who is earning their salvation by good works. No. A saint is simply someone saved by grace through faith. They are “set apart” from sin, and connected to Christ.

I'm as guilty as the next for calling someone a saint because of what they did. But that's not right. They are not saints based on what they do. It's about what Christ has done. Now, we know that saints are set apart for good works, according to Ephesians 2. But those works don't save us. They reveal us.

Paul then closes out this letter with a beautiful doxology and reminder of the grace of Christ. God's grace is needed at the moment of redemption, the continuation of living, and the finality of

glorification. Everything we have, from Salvation, to resources, to the breath in our lungs, is from God. [To God be the glory forever and ever.](#)

So here's my challenge for you today: praise God. To God be the glory. Not you. Not me. Not anyone or anything else. To God be the glory. God is worthy of our praise and worship, so let's worship him in singing, in serving, and grace-giving.

He loves you dearly, so show Him how much you love Him. Now go win the day, all to the glory of God.