

# A Band Of Brothers And Sisters

*Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.*

Date: 28 December 2022

Preacher: Jon Watson

[ 0 : 00 ] The 28th of December, a band of brothers and sisters. Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15, 7 One of the great things about Christianity is that it fits into every country and people group where the gospel is preached and believed.

For people at every stage of development, whatever language they speak, whatever age they may be, the gospel message, God's good news, speaks to them. That is something we rejoice in and give thanks for.

And that means wherever a Christian comes from, he or she is our brother or sister in Christ, and we must welcome them into our fellowship and congregation, just as Christ received and welcomed us.

The congregation where we worship always has visitors, and at this time of year when families like to come together, there are perhaps more visitors than normal. It is our privilege to welcome them in the name of Jesus.

It is also an immense privilege to belong to such a worldwide family. That means we must rejoice when God's blessing, maybe in revival, is being experienced in different parts of the world or in different churches from ours.

[ 1 : 18 ] They are family. It means, too, that we must weep with those Christians who are suffering, because they are Christians, and we must help them. Interestingly enough, the word the Bible uses for welcome was used when soldiers were enrolled in the Roman army and welcomed to a new regiment.

We Christians are all enrolled in Christ's army to lead disciplined, active lives, resisting evil and injustice in the world. And a prayer.

Help me, dear Lord, to welcome all who join us in worship. Amen. Thank you.