

Philippians 1:1-2

The Church at Philippi

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Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this introduction to his letter to the church at Philippi Paul supplies descriptive references to both himself and his readers. His classic greeting of “grace and peace” draws us to the high and lofty connections we enjoy in our mutual faith. Paul and Timothy were both present when this church began, and so news from them would be of special interest to the Philippians. Paul writes from Rome while he awaits the conclusion his appeal to Ceasar. In this letter he offers an optimistic message of hope and joy, and from it we can learn to “rejoice in the Lord” in spite of our circumstances.

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Part 1 – Slaves of Jesus

Read Philippians 1:1 and Ephesians 6:5-8

- 1) The Greek word translated “servant” carries the idea of a “bondslave.” What does this denote of Paul’s relationship with Jesus?
- 2) According to Ephesians 6 how does our heart attitude affect our service to the Lord?
- 3) Are you more apt to be guided by your “freedom” in Christ or your “enslavement” to Him? Why?

Part 2—Saints of Jesus

Read Philippians 1:1 and Romans 12:1

- 1) What does the term “saints” or “holy ones” imply for the Christian?
- 2) According to Romans 12:1 what do our bodies have to do with our holiness?
- 3) Would others refer to *you* as a “saint”? Why or why not?

Part 3—A Church is Planted

Read Acts 16:1-40

- 1) Why do you suppose Paul and Silas sang praises at midnight in the Philippian jail?
- 2) Who were likely the first Philippian church members according to this text?
- 3) How might this chapter instruct Christians on planting new churches?

Part 4—An Organized Church

Read Philippians 1:1-2 and 1 Timothy 3:1-13

- 1) Why do you think Paul specifically included the Bishops and Deacons in his introduction?
- 2) According to 1 Timothy 3 do you think Bishops and Deacons are important roles in the church? Why?
- 3) Who are the “Bishops/Elders” and “Deacons” of Trinity Gospel Church and how do they function?

Don't forget the Big Idea!