

Home Group Helps

Philippians 1:1-2 (and Acts 16)

Joy for the Journey: The Philippians

Theme verse for the series: Philippians 3:13b-14 – But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:1-2 – ¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Slaves (v.1a) – ¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

II. Saints (v.1b) – to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,

III. Shepherds (v.1c) – with the overseers and deacons:

IV. Salutation (v.2) – ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some famous works of literature, or ones of your own liking, that involve a journey or a quest?
- Why is it that we find journey literature so compelling?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul refers to himself and Timothy as “servants” (better translated “slaves”) of Christ.
- What is significant about this title?
- Is what Paul says about himself true of all Christians?
- What are some aspects of being a slave that make it a fit metaphor for the Christian?
- Why is being a slave of Christ a profound honor and not an insult?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul refers to the Philippian Christians as “saints.”
- What does the term “saint” mean?
- How is it appropriately applied to all believers?
- How is it inappropriately applied in the Roman Catholic Church?
- What is it about being “in Christ Jesus” that makes someone a “saint?”
- How are you, as a “saint,” living a set-apart life in what you do and do not do in this life?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- The Church at Philippi was the first church on the continent of Europe according to Acts 16. The church began with a female businesswoman, possibly a formerly demon-possessed slave girl, a prison guard, and his family.

- Israel began with an elderly, childless man (Abraham). The conversion of a continent to Christianity started with an unimpressive few in Philippi.
- What do these modest starts teach us about God's attitude towards ministry and church growth, etc.?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might people know that you are a "slave" and a "saint" this week?

June 25th, AD 2023