

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11 (LD. 12.32 & 13.33-34)
Singing: 266:1-3 – 166:1-3 – 250:1, 4, 5 – 387:1, 4-5

Let's Study Philippians (1)

Introduction

- Philippians is a joyful thank-you letter from Paul
- The Philippian Church stood with Paul (1:5; 2:25-30; 4:16, 18)
- The Philippian Church needed to focus on unity (1:17; 2:1-4; 4:2-3)

The triple truths about a Christian

I. Saint II. Servant III. Source

I. A Christian is a saint

A. Vs. 1 is typical Greek letterhead: *writer and addressed are identified*

1. Who is addressed: *all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi*

- a. compare 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 30:4; 34:9 etc. (20 X in Psalms); Acts 9:13; Phil. 4:21-22; 1 Thess. 1:10

B. How can Paul address Christians as saints who still falls short of God's glory?

1. Being a saint is not based on *us personally*

2. Being a saint is based on *being in Christ Jesus*

C. If you are in Christ Jesus, you have every reason to be joyful despite failings

1. realize your security regarding your sanctification: 1:6 and 3:20-21

2. realize your security despite your worst circumstances: 4:19 (4:4)

D. The 'word' saint proclaims your divine privilege

1. As saints you are holy (Luke 1:35)

2. As saints you have special obligation: *to live a separate & distinctive life*

a. separation does not mean *isolation*: saints ... which are in Philippi

b. separation means *separation from sin and consecration to God*

- we are called to be imitators of God (Eph. 5:1; 1 Peter 1:16)

3. As saints you may have specific assignments but yet are similar in status

a. *all the saints with the bishops and deacons*

II. The Christian is a servant

A. What is the connection between *saint and servant*?

1. Realizing you are a saint in Christ, motivates you to be a servant of Christ

2. This realization also increase the 'peace and joy' in serving Him

B. The privilege of being a 'saint' is not to indulge ourselves in our privilege

1. Paul and Timothy saw themselves as servants (2:19-21; 29-30)

2. Do you identify yourself as servants of Jesus Christ?

III. The Christian's source

A. The salutation reminds us of the source of living as saints and servants

1. God's greeting is at the time God's encouragement

a. be assured of His good-will and His fullness in grace

b. live in the comfort of peace established between Him and us

Closing Reflections:

A. Are you a saint, honored by God and addressed by God?

1. Don't answer it by looking at *holiness-status*

2. Instead examine yourself by Phil. 3:3

B. How did you become a saint?

1. To make us 'holy' (**or saints**) was a divine initiative & divine work

a. though it includes *our faith in Christ* (Acts 16:31; Eph. 1:13)

b. it involved infinitely more

- chosen by the Father (John 15:15; Eph. 1:4-5)
- purchased through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 10:10)
- quickened & sealed by the Spirit (Eph. 2:2-10; 1:15)

C. How can I become one of God's saints?

1. Don't begin with God's secret will but heed His revealed will (Deut. 29:29)

2. Don't attempt to become one by self-effort (Gal. 3:2-3)

3. But come to Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior (Matt. 11:28; Is. 45:22)