

Philippians 1:1-2

Church Servants and Slaves

Introduction:

When Paul writes this inspired letter to the church in Philippi, he does so by leaving out his title, “apostle.” It seems on the surface quite strange since most all of his salutations he indicates this title, “apostle” (with the exception of I & II Thess. and Philemon, and Philippians). The probable reason is Paul was on the most intimate terms with these dear Philippians whom he calls, in 4:1, “his joy and crown.” Some men in our Presbytery have some very prestigious degrees but because of our close brotherly and fatherly relationship to each other we address these men not as “Doctor” but “servants, bond servants” (slave servants not of men or any human authority but “of Christ Jesus.”

I. Slaves For Christ

A. Several ways in Bible times to be a slave:

1. You could become a slave by conquest in war.
2. You could become a slave by birth.
3. You could become a slave by debt.

B. Spiritual Slavery

1. Slaves to sin, sin ruled over us – Psa. 51:5; 19:13; Prov. 5:22
2. Slaves by debt equals our wages – Rom. 6:23

C. Freedom from slavery:

1. Earn your freedom.
2. Buy your freedom
3. But you cannot buy your way into heaven with debased money.
4. Only the precious blood of Christ is the proper payment for our sin – I Pet. 1:18,19

D. Exchange of Slavery

1. We are slaves now of Christ which is a bondage of love – I John 5:3
2. We are slave unto Christ like the bonds of marriage – Turn To: Romans 6:16-23

II. Saints in Christ

A. Saints are “set apart” for a special purpose.

1. The root word for “saint” is the Greek “hagos,” meaning “holy”
2. Our standing in Christ is justified – Rom. 3:26; John 17:19
3. Our substitute is Christ – II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:9

B. Overseers and Deacons

1. Elders – are pastors and shepherds - Tit. 1:5; Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 4, 6, 23; Jam. 5:14) See Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:1-2
2. Deacons – are primarily are of practical service, however are required to meet the same moral and spiritual standards -I Tim. 3:8-13

C. Paul’s Salutation – v.2

1. Grace precedes peace.
2. There can be no peace without grace.
3. Noah’s day and the Last Day – Turn To: II Pet. 3:3-10

