

THE CHURCH AND IT'S OFFICERS
PHILIPPIANS 1:1-2

Introduction:

- A. Every letter has two important divisions.
 - 1. The writer.
 - 2. The recipients..

 - B. This letter is no different.
 - 1. "Paul and Timothy."
 - 2. "to all the saints at Philippi."
 - 3. "with the Bishops and Deacons."

 - C. The writers identify themselves.
 - 1. servants = bondservants.
 - 2. Not lords and bosses writing to people of lower station.
- I. "TO ALL THE SAINTS, IN CHRIST JESUS." V1
- A. What is a saint?
 - 1. A person who stands in a peculiar relation to God, people who have as their ground of life Jesus Christ, holy.
 - 2. Born Again, Baptized, Committed..
 - 3. They are living, Not canonized by Holy Roman Church.

 - B. Are there saints today?
 - 1. Yes, the same as then.
 - 2. Born Again, Baptized, Committed.
 - 3. Look around you, you are saints.

 - C. These are people, "in Christ Jesus."
 - 1. The relation of every saint depends on this.
 - 2. You can't be a saint without being, "In Christ Jesus."

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- D. The saints don't live in heaven!
 - 1. "which are at Philippi."
 - 2. They were the Lord's effort in that city.
 - 3. If they didn't do God's work, it wouldn't be done.

- E. We don't live in heaven!
 - 1. We are, "in the world."
 - 2. Who will do God's work here?
 - 3. The burden is upon us!
 - 4. Look around you, ye are it!

II. THE OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

- A. The saints are first.
 - 1. They are the Body of Christ.
 - 2. The Body has the authority.
 - 3. The body has the responsibility!
 - 4. The church has the commission.

- B. The Bishops. (Overseer).
 - 1. These are called men, as no other men are called.
 - 2. Only God-called office in the church.
 - 3. Since they are God-called, their first allegiance is to God, not the church.
 - 4. Subject to the church in some things only.

- C. The Deacons.
 - 1. These are selected by the church, they are not called of God as was Aaron.
 - 2. The deacons are servants of the church.
 - 3. They do not make policy, they carry it out.

III. THE DRESS OF THE CHURCH. V2

- A. "Grace and peace."

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- B. When is it hard to pray for a person?
 1. When they are stubborn.
 2. When they are rebellious.
 3. When they are a hindrance to God's work.
 4. When they are cantankerous and sore-headed.
 5. When they are under the chastening hand of God.

III. THEY WERE EASY TO WORK WITH. V5

- A. They had been fellowshiping "in the gospel from the first day until now."
 1. fellowship = koluwria = denotes participation, either giving or receiving, sharing, impartation, participation.
 2. Some believe they supported with money.
 3. They probably helped and shared every way possible.
 4. They were sharing, "from the first day till now."
 5. A long relationship is a test of people.

- B. There is no reason for God's people not to have this fellowship.
 1. Some say short relationships are best.
 2. It takes a "do unto others" attitude.

