



THIS JOY THAT I HAVE

*A Journey Through Philippians
Philippians 1:1-2*

Series Aim: To equip and encourage believers to embrace and choose joy in every season of life.

THE SERVANTS v. 1a

The writer characterized himself and Timothy as bond-servants (Greek *douloi*) of Christ, which was a favorite title of early Christian leaders (cf. James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1; Rev 1:1). It stressed the strong commitment of the Christian to his or her Lord. The background for the concept of being the Lord's slave or servant is to be found in the Old Testament scriptures. For a Jew this concept did not connote drudgery, but honor and privilege.

- Paul humbles himself and stresses his commitment to serve them.
- Timothy served Paul as his travel assistant, trusted companion, and constant supporter. We all need someone who is a partner with us in serving God.
- All authentic leadership in the church must be servant-leadership.

THE SAINTS v. 1b

- ◆ **Saint**-Someone who has been set apart.
- ◆ **Sanctification**-The process of becoming more holy.

SANCTIFICATION

- **Definitive Point in Time Sanctification**-This makes us saints solely of the work of Holy Spirit. We contribute nothing to this divine act. In this sanctification we are all equally sanctified.
 - ✓ We were dead in our own sins, but he made us alive. Eph 2:1, 4
 - ✓ We were under the power of Satan, but he rescued us. Acts 26:18
 - ✓ We were in the domain of darkness, but he delivered us. Col 1:13
 - ✓ Our minds were blinded by Satan, but he opened them to truth. 2 Cor 4:4-5
- **Progressive Sanctification**-This sanctification implies progress, growth, or maturity. This involves our effort and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. However, it will never be completed in this lifetime.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SAINT

- **A SAINT IS SINFUL**-Rom 7:13-25

Sin=To miss the mark

Sin may explain some of your activity, it's not your identity!

- **A SAINT IS REMORSEFUL**-1 Tim 1:15, Rom 8

As saints mature in relationship with Jesus, they often see their sin more clearly and grieve deeply. Believers should have conviction not condemnation.

CONVICTION....	CONDEMNATION...
is from God	is from Satan
leads to life	leads to despair
ends in joy	ends in sorrow
makes us want to change	makes us believe we can't change
leads to new identity in Christ	leads to old identity in sin
brings specific awareness of a sin	brings vague uncertainty about sin
looks to Jesus	looks to self
is a blessing	is a burden

- **A SAINT IS HUMBLE**-1 Cor 13:4, Prov 8:13

Sometimes saint sin by becoming proud of the changes we've made and the things we've learned. Pride compares us to other sinners; humility compares us to our sinless Savior. We must remember we are sinners saved and kept by God's grace.

THE SHEPHERDS v. 1b

As Paul continues his introduction to his letter, he recognizes the leadership of the church. He singles out two groups who serve the needs of the congregation. No church can rise any higher than the godliness of its leaders.

Overseer-The word "overseer" indicates the spiritual oversight and management that they are to give to the church.

Deacons-Serving alongside the overseer are the deacons. While they do not have the same responsibility as the overseer, they are vital to the health of the church. Deacons facilitate ministry behind the scenes.

THE SALUTATION v. 2

Grace and peace were Paul's favorite words of blessing in his epistles. He wished that God would bestow these gifts on the Philippians even more than He had done so far.

"grace to you" is a request that they enter a fuller experience of grace in their Christian lives. It's prayer for daily grace that will enable them to live in a manner that honors God, that they would know the all-sufficient grace of God in their lives.

"peace of God"-Paul means the personal experience of supernatural peace within their souls. Only God can give this inner tranquility.