

TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-10 "Saints & Servants"

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

08/23/2026

PHIL 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that HE who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the Day of JESUS CHRIST.*

From his time under "House Arrest" in ROME, PAUL taught, encouraged, corrected, and administered the CHURCHES in GREECE and ASIA. As messengers came to him, and went from him, he was aware of what they faced from the outside, and what they needed within the CHURCH.

To the CHURCH AT PHILIPPI he wrote his most encouraging LETTER, not so much as an "APOSTLE" but as a "friend" who loved... and was loved.

TO THE SAINTS & SERVANTS

PHIL 1:1-2 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.*

From the beginning Paul wants them to receive this as a friendly LETTER. Certainly, there will be teaching and admonishing, but the tone is set at the Opening Address:

- **PAUL and TIMOTHY...** – Of all of Paul's Team it was TIMOTHY that was the most familiar to the PHILIPPIANS – LUKE had been in PHILIPPI before JERUSALEM, and as PAUL arrived in ROME, but the lack of his mention here indicates he must have returned to PHILIPPI
- **Servants of CHRIST JESUS...** – Not APOSTLE... Not PASTOR / TEACHER... Not "FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH"... **SERVANTS / Slaves!** He uses the same tone with the other Leaders he mentions within the LETTER
 - **TIMOTHY:** "Like a son, with his father..."
 - **EPAPHRODITUS:** "My Fellow-Worker... Fellow-Soldier... Your Messenger and Servant..."
 - **CLEMONT:** "My fellow-Worker..."
- **To all the Saints in CHRIST JESUS...** – He uses the same identity for himself as for the Believers... They are ALL **SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS**

Paul's LETTER does not come from "the top down" but from one who sees leadership as "Service" NOT "Rule"

LUKE 22:26 *But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.*

- With the **OVERSEERS (Bishops)** and **DEACONS (Ministers)**... PAUL makes no distinction of "special position above the Saints – a special Class" for those in these offices... they are ALL "Saints" in ONE Class... and are mentioned again within the Letter
 - **BISHOPS** – "Episkopos" – an overseer – Administrator – Superintendent – one given a special oversight of the CHURCH (as a PASTOR) or a function (a DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR)
ACTS 20:28 *Pay careful attention to yourselves [Elders] and to all the flock, in which the HOLY SPIRIT has made you overseers [Bishops], to care for [Pastor] the CHURCH OF GOD, which he obtained with his own blood.*
 - **DEACONS** – "Diakonos" *Hasten to the wine* - Ministers TO the BODY OF THE CHURCH – same word as "servants" in many passages implying the *service of a function* as "ministers" to the CHURCH
ACTS 6:2-4 *And THE TWELVE summoned the full number of the Disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the WORD OF GOD To SERVE (Deacon) tables. 3) Therefore, Brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the SPIRIT and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the MINISTRY (Deaconing) of THE WORD.*

It seems that PAUL wanted to emphasize that "these individuals" are just as much the objects of Paul's LETTER as the others... "UNITY!"

- **"Grace and Peace..."** – Although this was a common Salutation among the Greeks, it takes on special meaning to the Believers.
 - **GRACE** – "Charis" – Unmerited favor – CHRIST'S power made perfect in our weakness (2 COR 12:9)
 - **PEACE** – "Eirene" – an Absolute Calm from within that rules heart and mind in the midst of turmoil, danger, fear, or uncertainty
GRACE is the gift from God... **PEACE** is the result...