

# BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

## PHILIPPIANS 1:1-2

### INTRODUCTION:

#### I. THE MARK OF A HEALTHY CHURCH:

When you take a picture with your camera. It takes time for the film to develop. **BUT** if you have a camera that produce instantly, you can see the picture develop right before your very eyes.



In the same sense, every church needs time to develop into a \_\_\_\_\_ church. As you look at your own church, not become discouraged if it appears to be only an unimpressive white square of blank film. Christ has made an eternal commitment to the church until it become fully mature. Look closely, and you will begin to see Him bring shape and color—a glorious maturity—to your church.

1. What are those shapes and colors that display a picture of a HEALTHY church?



2. Last week, in the words 'Paul and Timothy' we see a 'father and son' in the faith—the adult and the young person together.
  - ✓ Who has been your 'Paul'—the spiritual father or mentor?
  - ✓ Are you discipling and nurturing a new believer in Christ? If not, who could you be discipling? Some family member? Some church member? Some worker? Whoever?

#### II. A HEALTHY CHURCH IS FULL OF TRUE SAINTS:

*"To all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi". (v. 1)*

*"To all deaf and hearing saints in Christ Jesus which are at Christian Deaf Church in Portland, Oregon".*

3. **ALL BELIEVERS—TRUE BELIEVERS ARE CALLED \_\_\_\_\_.** (v. 1)
4. They are saints because of: **their godly behaviors/conducts** or **their position in Christ Jesus**
5. **"SAINT"** means \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
  - ☞ Anything that is holy is separate for the use of God. Even the old pots and pans in the tabernacle was called 'holy vessels' and they were probably beaten and battered after 40 years in the wilderness. They may not have looked holy, but they were. Why? Because they had been set aside for the use of God.
  - ☞ Now that should be the position of every child of God. We are set aside for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
6. The saints' position are "\_\_\_\_\_". (v. 1)
7. What does it means to be saved?
  - ☞ It means to be \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus. When you put your trust \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus, the Spirit of God comes to dwell (live) \_\_\_\_\_ you. The Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ. You are put \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus by the Spirit of God.
8. Little phrase **'in Christ'** comprises [to include or contain, be composed of] the most important words that we have in the New Testament.
  - ☞ What does it mean to be saved? The Spirit of God chose just one little word, the preposition '\_\_\_\_\_', to explain what salvation is.
  - ☞ It is to be \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. How do you get in Christ? You get in Christ when you \_\_\_\_\_ Him as Your Savior and Lord.

### **III. A HEALTHY CHURCH HAS LEADERS WHO LEAD BY EXAMPLE:**

Philippians 1:1 EXB: *'From Paul and Timothy, servants [slaves, bondservants] of Christ Jesus. To all of God's holy people [the saints] in Christ Jesus who live in Philippi, including your overseers [bishops, perhaps the same as elders] and deacons [servants, ministers].'*

Philippians 1:1 BAR: *'This is a letter from Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's consecrated Christian people who are in Philippi, and to those who are in charge of the congregation there and those who are engaged in service.'*

9. **NOTE:** That both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are mentioned as being in the church at Philippi.
10. **"BISHOP"** means *'overseer or shepherd'*. The bishops were apparently the same as the *'elders'* or 'ministers of a church. The word 'bishop' actually refers to the office, while the word 'elder' refers to the individual who is in that office, and they should be men who are \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually. The bishop was the person whom we call the ministers or pastor of the church.
11. **"DEACONS"** were spiritually-\_\_\_\_\_ men who had dedicated their lives to the Lord to minister to the saints of God. They were persons who were \_\_\_\_\_ to minister to the widows and widowers and to the poor and sick of a church in order to free the minister to concentrate on pray and preaching. Deacons refers to a spiritual men who are performing as secular [of or relating to worldly things or to things that are not regarded as religious] service
  - ☞ Preachers are sometimes called 'deacons', that is servants.
  - ☞ The first deacons preached as well as ministered to the needy of the church. Stephen and Philip in Acts 6:5 and 8:5.
12. What are some responsibilities of church leaders?
13. What qualities should a leader in the church have in order to serve?
14. Think of your church leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers). Are they setting a good example in leadership?
15. Do you pray for your church leader by name? Would you be willing to make a commitment to do so now? Would you commit to a few minutes of prayer each day for your deaf church leaders, deaf missionaries, WAF leaders, Men/Women Breakfast, etc?

### **APPLICATION: 2 IMPORTANT POINTS NEED TO BE STRESSED**

16. Your church must organize for ministry and must always be careful to ordain only person who have proven to be spiritually mature in the Lord.
17. The two ordained officers [bishops and deacons] of the church must be diligent in both their \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of the Lord. Every believer is need to bear witness for the Lord Jesus, and the leadership must take the \_\_\_\_\_. How can we expect others to be witnessing and ministering if the leader is not doing so?

Philippians 1:2: *"Grace (favor and blessing) and (supernatural) peace (inner calm and spiritual well-being) that flow from God our wonderful Father and the Lord Jesus, be upon your lives."*

18. Won't you take a minute to pray for your church leader, board members, WAF leaders, and church people. Say: Dear God, my wonderful Father and my Lord Jesus, I ask to release Your favor, blessing, grace and supernatural, inner calm peace and spiritual well-being be upon \_\_\_\_\_'s life today. Thank You in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**YOUR AIM:** \_\_\_\_\_