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Phil. 1:1 Greetings

Philippians 1:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Paul and Timothy:

The epistle of Philippians was written by the apostle Paul and most likely Timothy was present to write the letter.

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"bondservants of Jesus Christ"

Notice how the apostle Paul calls himself first of all a servant of Jesus Christ. Not the church. Not humans! Not tradition!

We are here to serve Jesus Christ and not trying to please people. A true follower of Jesus Christ is not trying to please people but rather our focus should always to please God, even if it means people are not happy. (Galatians 1:10)

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To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus

Observe to whom the letter was addressed:

- 1st - Saints in Christ Jesus
- 2nd - ministers or church officers

1. To *all the saints in Christ who are at Philippi*. He mentions the church before the ministers, because the ministers are for the church, for their edification and benefit, not the churches for the ministers, for their dignity, dominion, and wealth.

2. It is directed to the ministers, or church-officers - *with the bishops and deacons*, the bishops or elders, in the first place, whose office it was to teach and rule, and the deacons, or overseers of the poor, who took care of the outward business of the house of God

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To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus

Notice the apostle Paul calls all the members of the church .. SAINTS

FIRST we can see the only requirement to be a saint is to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. You can only be a saint if you are a IN Christ Jesus .. this means you need to have a personal relationship with Jesus

SECOND: All Christians are saints .. not just a few chosen ones. Not just a few approved by the pope. NO!! Every person who accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour becomes a saint through the blood of Jesus. Not because he is without fault .. no because of what Jesus did for us on the cross .. we are saints through God's grace.

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Bishops: Greek [ἐπίσκοπος](#), [epískopos](#); Latin, episcopus.

Different terms used for the same office:
BISHOP, ELDER, PASTOR OR PRESBYTER

As early as 50 ad Paul appointed “elders” in every church, with prayer and fasting ([Act_14:23](#)), referring to the Asiatic churches before established. But in writing to the Philippians ([Php_1:1](#)) he speaks of “bishops” and “deacons.”

In the Gentile Christian churches this title evidently had been adopted; and it is only in the Pastoral Epistles that we find the name “presbyters” applied. The name “presbyter”, “elder,” or “bishop” refers to the same persons. Their office is defined as “ruling” Today we most of the time call them Pastors.

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Deacons: The term [διάκονος diákonos](#)

It may be said in general that the terms means the service of the bondservant ([doulos](#)), underling ([hupēretēs](#)) or helper ([diakonos](#)).

Probably from [διάκω diakō](#), to run on errands; an attendant, that is, (generally) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specifically a Christian teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess): - deacon, minister, servant.

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