

“Dear...”
Philippians 1:1-2

Relationship

“Paul & Timothy” – *Acts 16:1-5* Paul identifies himself and immediately sets the relational tone to the letter. Timothy and him were very close, Greek and Hebrew, co-laborers, intimate friends with each other and those he was writing to.

“Bondservants” – Work of any kind, *Leviticus 25:39-43* indebted to Christ together doing any work.

“All the saints” – None were excluded, the relationship and letter extended to ALL the believers in Philippi. Only time in the Pauline letters that “all” is used.

Foundation

“In” – Salvation, a commonality separate from location, a bond, a relationship, a foundation. Paul was referring to our Position in Christ:

Justification – Point of Choice, Salvation *Romans 5:1-2*

Sanctification – Set Apart, process of ongoing growth in our relationship with God *Romans 5:3-5*

Glorification – Joint-heirs in His Glory and Kingdom *Romans 8:26-30*

Heart

“Grace” – Greek word – Charis: common greeting we get Charity from, unmerited favor *Romans 3:21-26*

“Peace” – Hebrew word – Shalom: common greeting *Romans 8:5-8*

Paul used both Greek and Hebrew greetings to demonstrate his genuine heart and inclusiveness between him and them and Gentile and Jew.

Application

Discussion Questions

What relationships in my life encourage my faith?

How am I or can I be a “bondservant” to Christ?

How can I encourage others in their service?

Homework

Read *Philippians 1:3-11*

Answer the following questions:

1. What does God’s Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God’s Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God’s Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God’s Word today? Live it out.

Write down everyday one way someone has encouraged your relationship with God and one way you have encouraged someone else.