

## **To All the Saints**

### **Phil 1:1**

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

Paul refers to himself and Timothy as bondservants of Jesus Christ. I have often spoken on this subject. The idea is a willing slave. A slave that has pledged himself to his master for life.

Paul often opens his letters by referring to himself as an apostle which he certainly was. But here he refers to himself as a bondservant, which he also was.

The Bible is filled with descriptive words. Words that tell a story just in themselves. And in the Bible the meaning of words is much more important than in regular literature.

#### I. Saints - holy ones

##### A. We find how things are made holy in the Old Testament:

1. Exodus 40:1-16 (NKJV) 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
  - 2 "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.
  - 3 You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil.
  - 4 You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps.
  - 5 You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle.
  - 6 Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.
  - 7 And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.
  - 8 You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate.
  - 9 And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy.
  - 10 You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy.
  - 11 And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it.
  - 12 Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water.
  - 13 You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and

consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.

14 And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics.

15 You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations."

16 Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

B. There was no essential change in any of these items or even the people involved.

1. It was simply that in this ceremony they were declared holy.

2. They were the same except that now in God's eyes they were holy.

C. The children of Israel, as His chosen people, were holy to the Lord:

1. De 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

2. De 14:2 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

II. We are a holy people to the Lord:

A. 1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

B. What does this mean?

1. That God expects us to live separated lives, lives that are for Him.

2. That God expects us to keep ourselves from being defiled by the world.

3. That God expects us to be holy in our living.

a. Col 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

4. The idea is that those who have been set apart by God through the sacrifice of His son will continue in the faith.

a. I John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world

does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

So then what is the conclusion?

No one will see God without being completely holy.

We cannot make ourselves holy.

Jesus has made us holy in God's sight. He has made us saints.

Jesus' work of making us holy not only has declared us holy but it has changed us internally so that we now despise sin and desire to live holy lives.

Therefore we do all that we can to be pure and holy for Him.