**PHILIPPIANS: Picture Joy**

Tuesday, June 4

Phil 1:2: *To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons*

Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a saint. The word itself means to be separated, set apart for God himself, and that is who we are when we trust Jesus as Savior.

So the Apostle Paul characteristically called all believers “saints.”

I was listening to a radio program recently, and the host asked if we knew the patron saint of the Chicago Police Department. I actually knew the answer to his question. It is St. Jude, the saint of lost causes.

We use the word “saint” sometimes to designate people who are especially spiritual in our view. But we should never lose sight of the fact that we ourselves are saints. We are “God’s holy people.”

Note that Paul speaks to ALL the saints, not just a few select ones. He highlights the importance of every person in the church at Philippi by doing so. Whether old or young, tall or short, male or female, bond or free, each member of that church is important to Paul and to God.

Only after addressing all the saints does Paul get down his list to the deacons and overseers. They are important also, of course, and he is showing respect for them and for the office they hold with this reference. We should know our own importance to God as members of his church while also remembering that those who serve us in the church of Jesus Christ are to be respected and honored as well.

Prayer: *Thank you for all the saints in my church and my small group. Help me to love them and honor them as children of God along with the teachers and deacons that serve us in the work of the gospel.*