

## “...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

**Scripture Block:** Pp 1:1-11

**Theme:** GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE

**Life verse:** Pp 1:9-11

**Today’s passage:** Pp 1:1

### Notes

### Interpretation

We can begin to see the “heartbeat” of Paul’s letter to the Church in Philippi, right in the very first verse, as Paul refers to both himself and Timothy as servants (slaves) of Christ Jesus. When Paul has to be tough with a congregation, he introduces himself via his office of “apostle” which most definitely carries the connotation of authority. Not so in this letter; rather than present his credentials, he displays the attitude of his heart.

Paul continues his salutation by addressing the “saints” in Philippi. It is very important for us to understand this word. In its various forms you will also find it translated “holy”, and in either case it has three basic ideas associated with it:

- to be removed;
- to be set apart; and
- to be dedicated to special use.

All of us have objects in our homes that meet the definition. For example, in my home, my wife has some special Danish china. This china has been removed from the cupboards where the rest of the dishes are kept. It has been set apart in its own special location—a china hutch. And it is dedicated to special use—for company on special occasions.

### Application

The believer in Jesus Christ has a title—saint. This title doesn’t apply to a special few, but to every single member of the family of God. Let’s make sure we apply the above. The believer in Christ has been **removed** from his or her standing among fallen humanity. They have been **set apart** as children of God, and it is God’s intent that every believer be **dedicated** to the Lord’s service—something we will see shortly in Pp 2:12-13.

Out standing as saints, ones set apart and holy unto God, is something that should be firmly in mind and affect our daily outlook—for it is our daily calling. This passage reminds us as we start the day that we have been removed from the world and are not to again become entangled in it. What’s more, we are set apart for the Lord’s service—some days, that means we are just working on the refinement of our character and dependence upon the Lord. Other days, he has a specific work for us to do. In either event, we need to not lose sight of who we really are!