

Notes on Philippians 1 "Sincere"

SLAVE • V1 "This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Jesus Christ."

- Jesus revealed himself to Paul who was a skeptical, unbelieving religious teacher and leader. It made Paul a very sincere believer.

- I John 1:1-4 "The ONE who existed from the beginning is the one we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. **He is Jesus Christ**, the Word of life. This ONE who is life from God was shown to us and we have seen him."

- Meeting the good and glorious Son of God, who had Himself become a slave, inspired Paul to voluntarily yield himself to Christ to be as His slave. No longer physically free, to come and go and do as he pleased. No longer a man with his own opinions and answers.

- Philippians 2:6-8 "Though Christ Jesus was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on the cross."

- **PRISON** • V13 "For everyone here, including all the soldiers in the palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ."

- The cost to Paul of serving Jesus – continuing the work of Jesus to save people from a world at enmity with God-- was prison and death.

In this situation he was full of joy. In prison he continued to introduce people to Jesus. People were saved and the Christian community became bold.

- **People seeking God are looking for sincere faith.** They see it in people like Paul who have shifted the focus of their living from themselves and the world of false promises and empty fulfillments to Jesus, the Master -- yielding their life to Him. **He is the end to our spiritual quest.** He becomes our delight and light, our worship. His goodness includes the least and the worst among us. He is beauty beyond description. He is the giver of a restful peace and gladness, which puts a smile on our soul. He is our friend who calls us by name.