

THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

By Keith Greer

Paul wrote the letter of Philippians to the church at Philippi. Let me remind you of some of the outstanding things Paul said concerning these saints.

Fully Organized. "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." {Philippians 1:1} Sadly, many of the Lord's churches are not fully organized. Each local church needs to have elders, deacons, and saints. This is the best way for each congregation to function at the highest level- be fully organized!

Support gospel preaching. This church helped Paul in his support while he preached the gospel. The local church has a responsibility for the preaching of that work. Yet, we need more churches who are willing and able to help in spreading the gospel at home and abroad. "For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." {Philippians 1:5} "For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities." {Philippians 4:16}

Bold to speak. "And most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." {Philippians 1:14} Paul was grateful for the boldness of these saints. Congregations today need to boldly take a stand for the truth without making any apologies for doing so! Speak what needs to be said - the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Always obeyed God. "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence ..." {Philippians 2:12} These brethren were obedient even while Paul was absent from them. God's people must always be obedient to Him in all things. This is the only way we can please Him and influence others to live for Christ.

The church is a divine institution that was paid for with the blood of Christ, Acts 20:28. The church will be delivered back to the Father who made His Son the head of it, 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 1:22,23. Does Harrodsburg measure up with Philippi? ***