

Preacher's Pen
Sunday, April 16, 2006
Bishops, Deacons, & Saints

"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:", (Philippians 1:1)

Having determined to identify and appoint additional Elders and Deacons, our Eldership has asked me to deliver a couple of sermons on the subject.

As this congregation approaches nearly 50 years of existence and service to the Kingdom of Christ in Woodbridge, it is proper to reflect that many Christian men have served us in these capacities and moved on – either to await God's final judgment or to serve Him at another location.

One common thread has been that all have done so with the most reverent of attitudes to the preservation of God's inspired and written word, the Bible. The result is that we remain recognizable as a congregation of saints in Christ Jesus who are not easily swayed by the whims of society or the advent of traditions of men.

I/we say this neither boasting in ourselves nor passing judgment on others. Instead, we humble ourselves to OBEY that which God has seen fit to have written for all time; to preserve every "jot and tittle"; to neither add to nor take from. We simply believe that God said what He intended to say in exactly the way He intended to say it. We desire therefore to follow His will and none other.

I ask you to read again the verse from where we will begin our study this morning as above and notice how the inspired Apostle of Jesus Christ (Paul) addresses the church at Philippi as being all inclusive by three terms: bishops, deacons, and saints.

As we move through the process of prayer and addition of bishops (elders) and deacons here, may each of the families of those now serving and those who are being considered for service re-examine themselves in light of God's written word. May each of us as members of Christ's Body (Church) re-examine ourselves in light of God's written word. And, may we all reaffirm our allegiance to the resurrected Christ – to follow Him in the way He has directed; to make no concession; to be faithful unto death. For in so doing, we will do our part to insure the opportunity for yet another generation of faithful obedient children of God to spend eternity in His Heaven.

In Christian Love and Service,
Lyndal