

Intro: Paul has been talking about joy, doctrine and unity.

Then suddenly, Paul gives the examples of Timotheus (19) and Epaphroditus (25).

These men are servants of Christ and serve as Christian examples of Godly behavior.

Philippians 2: [19] But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. [20] For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. [21] For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. [22] But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. [23] Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. [24] But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

1. Confidence in Timothy 19-24

Paul, imprisoned in Rome, was concerned about the "*state*" of the church which was at Philippi. Paul wanted to know of their condition and he wanted to help them where they needed it.

Since Paul is imprisoned and cannot go himself, he recommends a young man named Timothy to them. Paul affirms the testimony of Timothy and wants to send Timothy to Philippi. Then Timothy will return to Paul and give the report the good condition of the church at Philippi. The name Timothy means "he who honors God."

Timothy was from Lystra.

His mother was a Jewess named Eunice and his father was a Greek.

Thus, Timothy was from a mixed marriage.

The grandmother of Timothy was a woman of faith named Lois.

Paul led Timothy to Christ and Paul took Timothy with him of his second missionary journey.

Paul spoke of Timothy as being a son in the faith, 1 Corinthians 4:15-17, 1 Timothy 1:2.

Remember, when Paul first came to Philippi, Timothy was with him, Acts 16.

A. Godly Care (20a)

Paul says "*I have no man likeminded.*"

To be likeminded is to be equal in soul, spirit and mind.

Timothy is trustworthy and was not like the selfish preachers Paul had encountered in Rome.

Timothy had the same heart, burden and passion as Apostle Paul.

Paul knew that Timothy was the best person he could send to Philippi in his own stead.

B. Genuine Care (20b)

Paul says Timothy will "*naturally care for your state.*"

Timothy would sincerely and genuinely care for the church at Philippi, Philippians 2:4.

Timothy had an unselfish concern for the church. Timothy had a Pastor's or Shepherd's heart.

The average Christian cares very little but Timothy is not average.

The average Christian is uninterested and uncaring.

The average Christian is not interested in winning souls to Christ.

* Calvin Coolidge was running for president.

His campaign advised him to quit as he was too quiet and lacked political personality.

A 6 year old girl said "I like Mr. Coolidge, he is the only one who asked about my sore finger."

Timothy was not a counterfeit, he was not a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Paul says *"ye know the proof of him."*

The church at Philippi knew of the faithfulness of Timothy.

Timothy had proved himself to serve as a son with his father.

He was readily available for service and committed to the cause of Christ.

Timothy's character was consistent, genuine and pure. He was a faithful man.

Paul is writing the church at Philippi and sending Timothy to Philippi as well.

Paul was hoping to be released from prison and travel to Philippi personally.

Paul knew that Timothy's report of the church at Philippi would bring "*good comfort*," verse 19.

Philippians 2: [21] For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

2. The Carnality of Others 21

Paul said *"for all seek their own."*

A. The Condemnation of Living for the Earthly

Others were continually self seeking.

The endeavors of others for the Lord were actually for self glory.

Others were personally ambitious and individualistic.

Others were uncooperative.

The loyalty of others was "all for one and one for me."

There is a great lack of commitment among men of God.

Most have a "me" first attitude.

Luke 9:59-61 & Luke 12:16-21.

A Man who is self-centered is off centered.

Most often their plans clash with God's plans and clash with support of church services.

We are a religious crowd filled with wrong priorities.

We want self to be crowned when self should be crucified.

B. The Commendation of Living for the Eternal

Timothy was first concerned for the "things which are Jesus Christ's."

Matt 6:33 seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Philippians 2: [25] Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. [26] For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. [27] For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. [28] I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. [29] Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: [30] Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

3. The Character of Epaphroditus 25-30

Paul felt that it was needful to send Epaphroditus to Philippi.

Epaphroditus was sent by the church at Philippi to Rome in order to bring Paul provisions, **Phil 4:18**.

Epaphroditus was also sent to stay with Paul in order to help Paul.

Yet Paul wants to send Epaphroditus back to Philippi along with this letter..

Paul does not want to seem unappreciative of the help of Epaphroditus and the church at Philippi.

A. A Sibling in God's Family

Paul says that Epaphroditus is "*my brother*."

A brother is one from the same womb. We have been born again by the blood of Jesus.

B. A Servant in God's Field

Paul says that Epaphroditus is a "*companion in labour*."

Paul viewed Epaphroditus as a fellow worker in the field of the Lord. He was a tireless worker.

Jesus said the harvest is plenty "*but the laborers are few*." 5% of believers are willing to work.

C. A Soldier in God's Fight

Paul says that Epaphroditus is a "*fellowsoldier*."

We are commanded to fight the good fight of faith.

Paul believed Epaphroditus was marching and serving on the battlefield with Paul side by side.

D. A Supplier of God's Furnishings

Paul also says that Epaphroditus is the messenger of Philippi. We are ambassadors, **2Cor 5:20**.

He may be more than just the one sent on this mission trip, he may have been the Pastor at Philippi.

In fact Paul says that Epaphroditus has ministered to him and helped him in every way, **See Postscript**.

As Epaphroditus was sent to stay with Paul, he became very ill, even nigh unto death.

Epaphroditus was full of heaviness and sorrow when he knew Philippi knew that he was sick.

* I went to visit a man in the hospital who said "what are you doing here?"

"I am sorry I got sick and you came to see me, you need to be home studying to preach to us!"

Then he told his wife to find his wallet and give me money for gas.

He was stressed that I had come to see him.

So Epaphroditus was very ill and stressed that the church was concerned for him.

But God, in mercy spared the life of Epaphroditus.

In doing so, God also spared Paul of sorrow upon sorrow.

Please take note that it was God that healed Epaphroditus, and it was not Paul.

Thus Paul sends Epaphroditus back to Philippi.

In fact Paul sent him "carefully" or eagerly to bring joy and peace of mind to the church at Philippi.

This would ease Paul's own concerns for Epaphroditus and the church.

In verse 29-30, Paul asked the church to receive Epaphroditus "*in reputation*" or in high regard.

Paul wanted the church at Philippi that Epaphroditus had gone above and beyond in helping Paul.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

You see, as Epaphroditus came to Rome and stayed with Paul it was with a great risk to his own life. Paul may receive a death sentence at anytime and Epaphroditus could die as well. But Epaphroditus did not regard his own life, but was willing to sacrifice for Jesus' cause. Epaphroditus was a man of courage. He was supplying to Paul what the church could not do because of logistics.

Concl: In Washington DC there is a bridge on I-395 that crosses the Potomac named for Arland D. Williams. On 1-13-82, Flight 90 crashed into the Potomac River. Almost all of the passengers perished. A rescue helicopter dropped a rope to Mr. Williams who was still alive in the icy river. 5 different times, Mr. Williams passed the rope to other passengers in worse shape than he was. On the sixth drop Mr Williams could not take hold and he succumbed to the frigid waters. He was a man of courage who risked his life in order to help others.

The Lord Jesus truly gave His life, for the eternal salvation of others. Will we risk our life to share His message in order to save others?

Moses spent 40 years in wilderness with a people who did not appreciate the blessings of God.

* The story is told of a little girl that was lost in a Kansas wheat field. Workers searched through the day but the field was so big they failed to find her. It was getting toward evening and they feared that if they did not find the little girl soon she was perish in the cold night. Finally someone suggested that they join hands and walk across the field. In a little while there was a shout, "Here she is." They all rushed to where the cry had come from but only to find that it was too late. As the mother rushed up and saw the lifeless body of her little girl, she begin to cry, "Why did we not join hands sooner, oh, why did we not join hands sooner?"

* Louis Pasteur, the pioneer of immunology, lived at a time when thousands of people died each year of rabies. Pasteur has worked for years on a vaccine. Just as he was about to begin experimenting on himself, a 9-year-old boy, Joseph Meister, was bitten by a rabid dog. The boy's mother begged Pasteur to experiment on her son. Pasteur injected Joseph for ten days and the boy lived. Decades later, of all things Pasteur could have wanted on his headstone, he asked for three words: "Joseph Meister Lived."