

PHILIPPIANS
Philippians 2:19-30

1. How does Paul describe:

- a. Timothy?** Unique in his concern for the Philippian's welfare. He had proven himself to Paul serving with him as a son with a father in the work of the gospel.
- b. Epaphroditus?** A brother, fellow worker and soldier and their messenger. He had risked his life to carry out the work of Christ.
- c.** Further, notice that Paul does not make a distinction between Timothy and Epaphroditus. Yes one was a full time missionary and the other a brother from the Philippian church. Paul was grateful for them both and urged the church to honor men like them.

2. How did Paul feel about his situation (2:24)?

- a. Compare this with 2 Tim 4:6-18 How is the tone of this letter different from Philippians?** In the 2nd Tim passage, Paul seems to be saying farewell. The context indicates an awareness of immanent death.
- b. What was the main thing for Paul in 2 Tim 4:6-18? What was important no matter what happened?** Finishing well. Fully proclaiming the gospel until he was safely home (heaven).

3. What had happened to Epaphroditus that made Paul desire to send him back home?
He had gotten ill. Almost to the point of death.

- a. Paul had the gift of healing, so what happened? (See Act 14:8-10, 19:11-12, 28:8; 2 Cor 12:7-10).** Paul could only heal when it was within God's will to do so. It is the same now as it has always been - one can be gifted a certain way and yet such things are not ours to turn on and off at will. Matt 13 describes a visit Jesus made to his hometown (Nazareth). He could not perform many miracles there due to their lack (want) of faith (Matt 13:58). Just because God had gifted Paul with the ability to heal, did not mean that he could heal at will. It had to be God's will. Even Paul, who had the gift of healing was told by God that God's "grace is sufficient for you." He had asked God to take away a "thorn in the flesh," a word used to describe a physical illness and God said no.
- b. How does Paul say that we are to regard and treat the Lord's servants?** With honor.
- c. How should we treat *anyone* who is serving Him? You might want to look up Rom 16 and see how Paul describes those in Corinth and Rome with whom he had served. List the ways he describes them.** With honor.

In Romans 16 Paul describes those with whom he had served:

Phoebe vs 1-2

“a servant of the church in Cenchrea”

“has been a great help to many people, including me”

Priscilla and Aquila vs 3-4

“fellow workers”

“They risked their lives for me.”

“all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them”

Mary vs 6

“who worked very hard for you.”

Andronicus and Junias vs 7

“my kinsmen who have been in prison” with him.

“outstanding among the apostles”

“in Christ before I was”

Urbanus vs 9

“fellow worker in Christ”

Apelles vs 10

“tested and approved in Christ”

Tryphena and Tryphosa vs 12a

“those women who work hard in the Lord”

Persis vs 12b

“another woman who worked very hard in the Lord”

Timothy vs 21

“my fellow worker”

Gaius vs 23

“whose hospitality the whole church here enjoy”

Paul speaks of them (and of many others that he greets but does not comment on) with affection and respect. He honored their service.

HOMEWORK

Read Philippians through yet again (Please *do* it - it helps immensely) and from 3:1-11 answer the following questions:

- 1. From verse 1, why did Paul say that he tended to be repetitious in his teaching/writing?**

- 2. Describe the Jewish teachers who Paul refers to in vs 2-4a**
 - a. What does Paul call them (vs 2)? Why (see 1 Cor 7:18-24, Gal 6:15 - what is Paul saying?)**

 - b. In what did these people place their confidence?**
 - Why was it futile?

 - Why was it destructive to genuine faith?

- 3. Had Paul chosen to stand on his own works, what did he have going for him (vs 4b-6).**

- 4. Why was this useless (Rom 10:1-4)?**
 - a. How did Paul consider those things that once made him feel accomplished (vs 7-11)?**
 - What did he consider them now that he was born again (8b - if you can, look up the word, it is strong language)?

 - What did he exchange them for?

 - b. How did he want to know Christ (vs 10—11)?**