



## Philippians 2:19-30

October 24, 2020

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

**Begin with prayer.** “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

Last week, we were challenged to do all things without grumbling or disputing. How did you do with grumbling or complaining this past week?

Paul follows up the Christ-hymn (Philippians 2:5-11) with two further examples of servants who demonstrate humble obedience to God—Timothy (vv. 19–24) and Epaphroditus (vv. 25–30).<sup>1</sup>

### Timothy: No One Like Him

#### Read Philippians 2:19-24:

<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, <sup>24</sup> and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

[Q] From Paul’s description, list the character qualities Timothy has:

[Q] What kind of relationship does Paul have with Timothy?

[Q] Paul “hope[s] in the Lord” and “trust[s] in the Lord” when he writes of the future. Why does he include these phrases? See James 4:13-16.

“To give my life for Christ appears glorious. To pour myself out for others . . . to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom—I’ll do it. I’m ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory. . . . We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking a \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table—“Here’s my life, Lord. I’m giving it all.” But the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$1,000 for quarters. We go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid’s troubles instead of saying, “Get lost.” Go to a committee meeting. Give a cup of water to a shaky old man in a nursing home. Usually giving our life to Christ isn’t glorious. It’s done in all those little acts of love, 25 cents at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it’s harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul.” — Fred Craddock, *bible.org/illustration/practical-implications-consecration*

<sup>1</sup> John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Php 2:19–30.

## Apply

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Would you like to be a trusted servant of Jesus? Then think how you can begin...

- Start with little things that no one else wants to do.
- When you say you will do something, be sure to do it. And do it well, for the Lord.
- Seek out the help, advice and nurture of those who are older in the faith than you.
- Talk to the Lord about your next step.

## Epaphroditus: Delivering a Gift; Getting Sick

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**Read Philippians 2:25-30:**

<sup>25</sup> I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, <sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup> So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, <sup>30</sup> for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

[Q] What do we learn about Epaphroditus from these verses? What kind of man was he?

[Q] Paul describes him as brother, co-worker, fellow soldier, messenger, minister. Wouldn't these five terms be wonderful on a tombstone? Would you like to be known as a brother, coworker, fellow soldier, messenger, and minister? What would people say should go on your tombstone? <sup>2</sup>

[Q] How were both Timothy and Epaphroditus living out Jesus' mindset from Philippians 2:1-11?

## Apply

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### Value and Honor

[Q] Paul took the time to honor his friends. (See also the example in Romans 16:1-16.) How does this compare to the kind of people the world honors? Do you know anyone who quietly and selflessly serves Christ and people? How might you value and honor them?

*Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*  
Romans 12:10

### Worthy of Imitation

[Q] List of a few ways in which you could cultivate some of the qualities of Timothy and Epaphroditus into your own life, to the benefit and blessing of other people.