

Home Group Helps

Philippians 2:19-30

Joy for the Journey: Examples of Christ

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

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

II. The Example of Epaphroditus (v.25-30) – ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Who served as a very positive example to you in your early life? Why were they an example?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul begins this passage with his plans regarding travel to Philippi for others and for himself. He states, "I hope in the Lord to send Timothy . . ." (v.19).
- What is significant about this statement?
- How does it reflect Paul's view on the providence of God?
- Should we reflect this attitude when we make plans (see 1 Cor. 4:19, 16:7; Prov. 16:9, Jas. 4:13-15)?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In vs. 20-21, Paul comments regarding Timothy, “For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”
- What is going on in Rome that would cause Paul to make this statement (see Phil. 1:17)?
- How does this statement reflect a common frustration of pastors regarding their congregations?
- How can you be more like Timothy and less like the others in Rome?
- Paul’s affection and trust in Timothy is seen in the statement, “how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel” (v.22).
- What are some of the character qualities of Timothy that would lead to such a statement?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What are the five titles used to describe Epaphroditus in vs. 25?
- Reflect upon each of these titles. Would someone be able to use these titles to describe you?

5. Application Question(s):

- When Paul writes in verse 30 of “what was lacking in your service to me,” he is not whining about the Philippians’ neglect, but recognizing that a distance of many miles prevents them all from helping him in person (Johnson).
- How can you make up for what is “lacking” in the service of our church this week?

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