

Philippians Bible Study - Lesson 7 - **Philippians 2:19-30**

October 27, 2024

Philippians 2:19-24

1. Paul highly regards Timothy and has trained him as his close apprentice, that is to him, even more like a son (2:22).
 - a. Why might Paul be building up Timothy in the eyes of the Philippians? Read 2:23.
2. Paul says that there is no one like Timothy with him who would be “genuinely concerned” for the welfare of the Philippians (2:20). This makes his previous comments about those who opposed him (1:15, 28) seem even more serious.
 - a. As much as we appreciate Paul for his commitment to the Gospel, he did frequently rub other fellow believers the wrong way. What sort of things do you know about Paul that might make people feel this way?

Philippians 2:25-30

3. Epaphróditus is not a well known name to us, but he was almost certainly the deliverer of this letter to the church in Philippi as well as being the one who delivered the monetary gift from the Philippians to Paul (4:18).
 - a. His name means “belonging to Aphrodite” so he is most likely a gentile convert - as was the bulk of the congregation in Philippi. How wonderful it is that when we are dedicated to sinfulness even from birth, God is able to change us to be His own children, “belonging to God.”
4. Paul gives great honor to Epaphroditus in 2:25 calling him his “brother, and fellow worker and fellow soldier,” but also their “**messenger** and **minister**.” In those last two descriptors, he used specific words to elevate the work that the Philippians dispatched him to do:
 - a. “Messenger” = ἀπόστολος (apostolos) → not calling him an *apostle*, but noting that Epaphroditus was a messenger of the gospel. This is reminiscent of what Paul said of the whole church in 1:5. They have been partners with Paul in the gospel, and have now even preached it to him, through Epaphroditus
 - b. “Minister” = λειτουργόν (laytorgon ≈ liturgy) → this is a service oriented minister, which is similar to how we say that God serves/ministers to us in Church liturgy.

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5. Following the commands in 2:3-5 and 2:12-16...
 - a. How did Timothy model obedience to them (2:19-24)?
 - b. How did Epaphroditus model obedience to them (2:25-30)?
 - c. How can we learn from these faithful servants, and/or from Paul’s elevation of them?

God bless.

-Pastor Brubaker