Bible Study

Philippians: Living with Joy

Chapter 2

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

**DISCUSSION**

Last week we were introduced to Timothy. He is Paul’s protégé (apprentice).

Timothy’s father is a Gentile; his mother is a Jew.

Timothy comes from a legacy of faith in Jesus passed down from his grandmother (Lois) and mother (Eunice).

Paul considered Timothy to be a spiritual son. He was also a faithful servant to Paul. He would eventually become Paul’s successor in ministry.

Timothy is a solid model of servanthood.

II. THE SUBMISSIVE MIND—chapter 2

A. The example of Christ—2:1–11

B. The example of Paul—2:12–18

C. The example of Timothy—2:19–24

**D. The example of Epaphroditus—2:25–30**

**DISCOVERY**

II. THE SUBMISSIVE MIND—chapter 2

A. The example of Epaphroditus—2:25-30

The Example of Epaphroditus (25-30)

Who is Epaphroditus? (*ee – paf – ruh – di – tuhs*)

His name means “charming”.

Paul is Jewish. Timothy is Gentile/Jewish. Epaphroditus is Gentile.

\* Knowing this, what can be stated about the gospel?

Epaphroditus is a member of the Philippian church.

Traditionally, it is believed that he was the person who delivered Paul’s letter to the Philippian church.

He risked his health and life to deliver their offering to Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome.

**v. 27; Philippians 4:18**

Paul thought very highly of Epaphroditus. He describes him as…

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* As a “brother”, he shared in spiritual life with Paul.
* As a “co-worker”, he shared in the labor of ministry with Paul.
* As a “fellow soldier” he shared in the dangers associated with following and serving Christ.

He willingly took the role of a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to assist Paul.

Paul’s description suggests that Epaphroditus was a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Christian.

He did not emphasize one aspect of Christian life above or to the neglect of another. He had balance.

\*Do you feel that our church is balanced in this way? Why or why not?

The story is told of a group of believers who thought only of “fellowship”. They had little concern for other aspects of ministry (discipleship, evangelism, worship, service). They hung a sign in front of their meeting place which read, “JESUS ONLY”. One day a strong wind blew away some of the letters from the sign, which now read, “US ONLY”. This is a perfect description of a group of people who were not balanced Christians.

Epaphroditus was concerned about others. He was a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Christian. (vv. 26-27, 30)

He was concerned about Paul. He volunteered to deliver the church’s love gift when Paul was a prisoner in Rome. He risked life and limb to do this.

He was concerned for his own home church. Though he became deathly ill while he was in Rome with Paul, he was burdened over the people at the church in Philippi because they were worried about him.

\*Some will understand what is meant by the “burden of sin”, but what is the “burden of ministry”?

The Burden of Ministry

1 Corinthians 9:15-16

Luke 4:17-19

Epaphroditus was a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to Paul!

He delivered the Philippian offering to Paul (in a Roman prison) and stayed there with him despite his own sickness. He served Paul despite his sickness.

This epitomizes selfless, sacrificial service.

He was a blessing to his church. Paul encouraged the Philippian church to honor Epaphroditus for his service and sacrifice. (v. 29-30)

He is a blessing to us today!

He is proof that the joyful life is the life of sacrifice and service.

Together, Timothy and Epaphroditus teach us to submit ourselves to the Lord and to one another in the Spirit of Christ.

**DIRECTION**

The Burden of Ministry

1 Corinthians 9:15-16

Luke 4:17-19

Write a brief explanation of the “Burden of Ministry”

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