

Two Commendable Men Philippians 2:19-30

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Paul now commends two exemplary men to the Philippians. Timothy and Epaphroditus were of great service to Paul in his ministry. God supplied Paul's need through them, and in them gives us patterns for our own service.

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Part 1 – An Outstanding Character

Read Philippians 2:19-21; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- 1) What stands out about Timothy's character in this passage?
- 2) According to 2 Corinthians 5 how does Christ affect our priorities?
- 3) How can your life stand out for Christ?

Part 2—A Proven Disciple

Read Philippians 2:20-24; 2 Timothy 3:10

1) Why do you think Timothy was the right man for this task?

- 2) According to 2 Timothy 3 How was Timothy prepared for this task?
- 3) Who has/is discipling you to serve the Lord? Who is/are you discipling you now?

Part 3—A Helpful Support

Read Philippians 2:25; 1 Corinthians 16:15-18

- 1) What needs (wants) does Paul indicate were met by Epaphroditus?
- 2) According to 1 Corinthians 16 how were co-laborers valuable to Paul?
- 3) How can you meet the needs of others for fellowship and support?

Part 4—A Willing Risk Read Philippians 2:26-30; Acts 20:22-24

- 1) How much did Epaphroditus risk by volunteering to serve in this role?
- 2) According to Acts 20 what motivates a Christian to risk it all?

3) What have you risked for Jesus' sake?