

The Book of Philippians

“Examples of Faithful Service”

Text: Philippians 2:19-30

Christ's mentality is evident in how we serve others.

Timothy:

Paul sends Timothy to Philippi to get an update on their condition (Phil. 2:19).

- Paul commends Timothy for his sincere care for the Philippians (Phil. 2:20-21).
 - Timothy had Paul's DNA and the heart of a true shepherd, making him the ideal candidate to care for the people.
 - A shepherd's job is to watch over the people God has entrusted to them (1 Peter 5:2-4).

Paul speaks of Timothy's character (Phil. 2:22).

- Timothy faithfully served alongside his spiritual father, Paul, in spreading the gospel (1 Cor. 4:2).
 - Timothy not only preached the gospel but also set an example for others by living it out, serving others, and leading a blameless life.
 - We should be steadfast in our convictions, character, values, and commitment to God's standards, not wishy-washy.
 - There is a difference between an opinion and a conviction. An opinion is something you'll argue over, but a conviction is something you'll die for.

Timothy was sent to gauge the Philippians' response to Paul's letter and update them on his imprisonment (Phil. 2:23-24).

Epaphroditus:

Epaphroditus was the representative of the Philippian church (Phil. 2:25-30).

- Epaphroditus was very courageous and came very close to death while serving Christ (Phil. 2:27).

- The Bible doesn't specify the type of physical illness Epaphroditus was dealing with. However, *malaria* was very common during his time, and *typhoid*, a serious, life-threatening bacterial infection, was also present.
 - Despite his illness, Epaphroditus willingly cared for the people God had entrusted to him (Phil. 2:29-30).
 - He put the cause of Christ before comfort. He was persistent despite his pain and was committed to finishing what he had started.

Following the Example of Timothy and Epaphroditus:

Three ways to follow Timothy's and Epaphroditus's examples.

1. Show others that you genuinely care.
 - Everything in our culture teaches us to be self-centered; however, showing compassion is the way of the kingdom.
 - Jesus modeled this for us (Matt. 9:35-36).
2. Cultivate godly character.
 - One important way to do this is to remain faithful and devoted to the Lord.
 - The greatest ability is dependability (1 Cor. 4:2).
3. A godly man makes courageous sacrifices for others.
 - Put Christ's gospel ahead of your own comfort.

Call to Action:

1. Show the heart of Christ by putting others ahead of yourself.
2. Stay committed to serving Christ, regardless of the cost.
3. What do I need to lay down in my life to serve Christ fully?