

Sermon Discussion

18 October 2020

Read Philippians 2:19-30 together.

Dig Deeper

In this letter, every single reference Paul makes to another person is made in connection with that person's *koinonia*, or his partnership in the gospel. Timothy and Epaphroditus stand as the most prominent of these.

In contrast to most believers, Timothy had demonstrated his worthiness as a servant of Christ and of Paul over more than 10 years. He had served as the apostle's fellow worker and as his protégé. He had established a good reputation not only in Philippi but wherever he had served. Paul probably he wanted this glowing testimonial to give his original readers confidence that Timothy had their best interests at heart. Timothy would represent their situation to Paul accurately.

Epaphroditus' name appears nowhere else in the NT other than in Philippians in this form. Paul described him in five relationships. He was Paul's **brother** in the faith, a sharer in spiritual life by God's grace. Second, he was Paul's **fellow worker**, more than a brother but one who joined in the service of building the church of Jesus Christ. Third, he was Paul's **fellow soldier**. He was not just a worker but a worker who had entered into spiritual warfare by standing up for Christ in a hostile environment and boldly proclaiming the gospel. In relation to the Philippians, Epaphroditus was their **messenger** to Paul. He had carried their gift to him as their representative. Finally, Epaphroditus was the Philippians' **minister** to Paul's needs in prison.

1. Who are the people in your life who model Jesus? In what ways do they show Christlikeness.
2. Does faithful Christian living always look extraordinary? Why or why not?
3. How do you cultivate a servant heart?
4. What are some practical ways you can honour servants of the gospel like Timothy and Epaphroditus in your church?

Application & Prayer

- This message talked about the Christian's service to others. Discuss and pray for particular areas in your life for which you need growing in this.
- Consider the ways God has had mercy on you today. Pause and thank God for the evidences of His grace.