

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Philippians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Philippians 2:19-30 – faithful servants ready to be used by God

Today's Message:

"Faithful Servants"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of our responsibility to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. This is not to be confused with how we get saved. It is after salvation... and relates to how we ought to live. Today, we come to a significant portion of the scriptures dedicated to two **FAITHFUL** servants – Timothy and Epaphroditus. As we look at their lives individually and then together, we will be moved by God to follow their example. God uses **ORDINARY** people to do extraordinary things. These men will teach us that our Lord uses different callings and faithfulness to build His church. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Philippians 2:19-30

A. Timothy – Paul's trusted, faithful, servant, and friend in soul care ministry.

1. God had a plan for Timothy's life; he was **FAITHFUL** in his service to Jesus Christ.

- **Philippians 2:19** – *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you...*
- **Philippians 2:20** – *For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*
- **Philippians 2:22** – *But ye know THE PROOF of him... as a son... he hath served with me...*

Highlights of Timothy's life from the word of God:

- **He grew up with FAITHFUL believers.** **Acts 16:1-3; 2 Tim 1:5; 3:15**
 - ✓ God can raise up faithful servants from ordinary families, even if one saved parent.
- **Paul CHOSE him to travel with him.** **Acts 16:3; 1 Thess 3:2**
 - ✓ A good testimony and faithful service open doors for greater usefulness to God.
- **Paul SENT him to strengthen churches.** **1 Corinth 4:17; Php 2:19; 1 Thess 3:2**
 - ✓ Timothy shows the value of being a reliable servant; Paul trusted him to care for souls.
- **Paul LEFT him in Ephesus to pastor them.** **1 Timothy 1:3; 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:2**
 - ✓ God uses young people if they are faithful servants and willing to care for/teach others.
- **Paul longed to SEE him at the end of life.** **2 Timothy 1:4; 4:9, 21**
 - ✓ Timothy's loyalty brought deep comfort to Paul; faithful friendship is a valuable ministry.
 - ✓ Timothy is included in Paul's greetings. *Rom, 2Cor, Php, Col, 1&2 Ths; Phm; Heb*
- **Timothy is last mentioned as set at liberty.** **Hebrews 13:23**

Personal Application

How is your faithfulness to the Lord? How can you follow this example for our Lord?

Important Note

Timothy's life is God's example of what we have been learning in the book of Philippians thus far! He cared for others!

Important Note

In Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Timothy is remembered and honored for his life of consistent faithfulness.

"For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state."

Wow. What a testimony! Is it any wonder Paul loved him so much! He trusted Timothy to care for and minister to others AS HE WOULD DO UNTO THEM. He made himself very valuable to our Lord.

B. Epaphroditus – a faithful servant sent from Philippi to minister to Paul.

2. God had a plan for Epaphroditus' life; he was **FAITHFUL** in his service to Jesus Christ.

Important Note

Epaphroditus is only mentioned in the Bible 2 times and only this book.

- **Philippians 2:25** – 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.**
- **Philippians 2:30** – Because **for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, NOT REGARDING HIS LIFE, to supply your lack of service toward me.**

Highlights of Epaphroditus' life from the word of God:

Important Note

To Paul, he was **family in Christ, a partner in ministry, and a soldier in spiritual battle. Amen!**

- He was **SENT** from Philippi to care for Paul. **Philippians 2:25**
✓ He was both a servant to Paul and a representative of the local church in Philippi.
- He was **SICK** nigh unto death. **Philippians 2:26**
✓ He risked his life in service to Paul and others – true sacrificial love (charity).
- Paul said he should be received and **HONORED**. **Philippians 2:29-30**
✓ Faithful servants who quietly sacrifice for Jesus Christ are to be honored.
- He delivered the church's **GIFT** to Paul. **Philippians 4:18**
✓ Service for Jesus Christ, even in small things, is a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God!

Personal Application

What can you learn from this life example? Have you been faithful in little things?

C. The Comparison – God calls and uses different faithful people for His glory.

3. The testimonies of these men teach us how God can use ordinary **FAITHFUL** people!

<u>Comparison Area</u>	<u>Timothy</u>	<u>Epaphroditus</u>	<u>Application</u>
<i>Background</i>	Raised in a mixed home with true (unfeigned) believers – mother and grandma.	A layman from Philippi. Not much is known except from his service recorded here.	God uses both those raised in godly homes and those from obscure ones.
<i>Ministry Roles</i>	Trained by Paul personally to be a servant, teacher, pastor, and helper to many churches and people.	A courageous messenger, minister to Paul, and companion in the labour of the gospel.	Some are called to lead and teach, others to support and serve – both are vital to the local church – Christ's body.
<i>Character Traits</i>	Known for faithfulness, purity, and care for others (1Tim 4:12; Php 2:20-22)	Known for sacrificial service and willingness to risk his life for the work of Christ.	God values both faithful service and sacrificial courage in His work.
<i>Relationship to Paul</i>	Like a son (spiritually), a long-time servant and loyal friend and soul mate.	A trusted brother in Christ and fellow soldier who brought comfort to Paul.	Ministry needs long-term companions and short-term encouragers and helpers.
<i>Legacy</i>	Continued and faithful ministry, remembered and honored by God as Paul's spiritual son and a faithful pastor and carer of souls.	Remembered and honored by God as a selfless servant who was faithful to care for others and serve Christ at all cost. And was VERY sick!	Whether remembered for preaching or serving, both leave a lasting testimony of faithfulness. Amen! Your service matters to God!

"...but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also..."

Ministry is personal – and the caring of souls comes with heavy burdens and sorrow. God reminds us that faithful people are important to Him and to His work. Amen!