

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, December 11, 2022

The Book of Philippians

Message Summary: [Read all of Phil. 2:17-30 NKJV – My Timothy, My Epaphroditus]

This week, Pastor John taught us about how we are to both send and receive those who are called to be ministers to us. The Bible tells us that some were called to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the purpose of equipping the saint for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:11-14). These men and women are gifts from God, given the responsibility of our spiritual care and to take care of the Body of Christ – the Church. They are called to lead the way in the kingdom of God and to show others how to go forth and do the work God has called them to do. But we have to understand that we, too, have a responsibility in this biblical relationship. We are commanded to honor, love, and care for those ministers God sends. Whether they are coming home or going away, we are commanded to demonstratively appreciate those gifts that God has given to us to teach us and lead us. We have a divine responsibility to receive and take care of those who spiritually take care of us, holding them in high esteem!

Scriptures:

[Philippians 2:17-30 NKJV] 17 Yes, and if I am being poured out [as a drink offering] on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me. 19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with [his] father he served with me in the gospel. 23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. 25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; 26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the Bible consider ministers gifts from God?
2. What is their responsibility in the life of the believer?
3. How are we to treat those called to be ministers in our lives?
4. What are some demonstrative ways we can show love and care to our ministers?

Life Application:

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 2:17-30. This passage of scripture tells us to honor, love, and care for those ministers God sends. Whether they are coming home or going away, we are commanded to demonstratively appreciate those gifts that God has given to us to teach us and lead us. We have a divine responsibility to take care of those who spiritually take care of us. So, ask yourself this question, how have you demonstratively shown your love and care for those who are your spiritual leaders? It could be as simple as writing a thank you letter, letting them know that you appreciate them and are praying for them! Never forget to tangibly love those who are pouring out the love of God on you!