

The Service and Sacrifice of Global Missions

Philippians 2:25-30



14 The LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.



¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

- Genesis 3:14-15

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. -

Revelation 22:1-5





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³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. - Mark 8:31-32

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20





¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.



Epaphroditus's name implies his pagan past, suggesting that at birth his parents had invoked over him the protection of the goddess Aphrodite. By the grace of Christ, however, Epaphroditus had been born into a new family and invested with a new identity. Now Paul affirms that he and Epaphroditus are brothers.

- Dennis E. Johnson



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²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. . . . ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again

I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus
the gifts you sent . . .





For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus





³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.



³⁰ nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life . . .



Epaphroditus's sickness invaded his life precisely because he was following Jesus, transporting an expression of Jesus' love from Jesus' people in Macedonia to Jesus' servant Paul in Rome. True, no human persecutor was hunting Epaphroditus down. But the price that Epaphroditus paid to bring support to Paul was suffering for Jesus' sake, as surely as were the scars on Paul's back from his beating at Philippi. - Dennis E. Johnson



44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. -
Matthew 13:44

The extent of his sacrifice and the depth of his joy display the worth he puts on the treasure of God.

- John Piper, *Let the Nations be Glad*



¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.



So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. -
Philippians 2:1-11





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