

## **The Epaphroditus Effect**

### **Philippians 2:25-30**

The Apostle Paul gives us yet another example of sound Christian Character and Service in the man Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus was sent to Rome to deliver a gift to Paul from the church in Philippi. While he successfully made the trip, he falls very ill and must return home without completing everything he set out to accomplish. Paul sends him home with many praises.

#### **Outline:**

1. Balanced (vs. 25)
    - a. My brother, the fellowship in the Gospel (Phil. 1:3-5)
    - b. My fellow worker, the furtherance of the Gospel (Phil. 1:12)
    - c. My fellow soldier, the faith of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27)
  2. Burdened, Your Messenger (vs. 25)
    - a. Others focused - missionary (Phil. 2:3-4)
    - b. Home/local church (vs. 25)
  3. Blessed, Your Minister (vs. 25)
    - a. Blessed to be a blessing (vs. 25)
    - b. Honor him, rather than shame him (vs. 26-30)
- The Mind of Christ (Col. 3:11, Phil. 1:27)

#### **Questions for Small Group Discussion:**

1. Warm up - list as many different “effects” you can (i.e. red-eye, wagon-wheel, etc.).
2. Describe the different roles in which Epaphroditus served.
3. Do you serve in your local church? Describe how.
4. Describe the way you personally honor those that serve in missions and the local church.
5. Why does Paul point to Epaphroditus as an example even though he may have failed in part of his tasks?