

PHILIPPIANS

discovering *joy* that endures

Philippians
2:19-30

The Joy of Relational Ministry

“True friendship, especially between Christians, can have a fragile side. On the one hand, one of the reasons for friendship is personal, the need to have someone close with whom to share joys, sorrows and everyday events. On the other hand, the goal of all truly Christian friendship is growth in Christ on the part of both parties. And that's the fragile part: how to be gently honest with a friend without jeopardizing the relationship. That's where Paul now is in his relationship with the Philippians.”

Gordon D. Fee Philippians, IVP N.T. Commentary

TIMOTHY COMING SOON

Philippians 2:19-24

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you **soon**, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him **as soon as I see how things go with me**. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

*Paul came to **Derbe** and then to **Lystra**, where a disciple named **Timothy** lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at **Lystra** and **Iconium** spoke well of him.*

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey Acts 16:1-2

RETURNING EPAPHRODITUS

Philippians 2:25-27

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, **my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier**, who is also **your messenger**, whom **you sent** to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But **God had mercy on him**, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who **sleep** in death, so that you do not **grieve like** the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus **died** and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen **asleep** in him.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

SHARED JOY

Philippians 2:28-30

²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

“There is nothing that makes a man have a big heart like a great trial... I have found that those people who have no sympathy for their fellows — who never weep for the sorrows of others — very seldom have had any woes of their own. Great hearts can only be made by great troubles.”

Charles Spurgeon

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach **unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

*Instead, **speaking the truth in love**, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him **the whole body, joined and held together** by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as **each part does its work**.*

Ephesians 4:11-16