



In Celebration of Friends

Philippians 2:19-30

Today is Friend's Day 2024 and is a day to be reminded of, and thankful for, the friends in our lives!

Friendship may not sound like an important spiritual value until we remember that on the last day of Jesus' earthly life He said to His disciples, "I call you friends" and told them that the greatest thing they can do to show Him to the world is love one another (John 15:15, 13:35).

What I want to challenge you with this morning is this:

Live as someone who adds value to others!

Today we'll look at two friends the Apostle Paul valued and who added value to his life- Timothy and Epaphroditus.

Let's look at Timothy and Epaphroditus and how they added value to Paul's life. The purpose of this text is not simply to think, "Oh, that's how Paul's friends were," but to imitate these friends, as Philippians is a book of imitation.

First, he speaks about a friend named Timothy (Vss. 19-24).

I want to focus on two descriptions Paul gives to Timothy:

1) For I have no one like him... Verse 20

What an amazing description of a friend!

2) But you know Timothy's proven worth...Verse 22

Not his supposed worth, etc. but his ***proven*** worth!

The word was used to describe a soldier or precious metals.

Who is/are the Timothy(s) in your life?

Who are you a Timothy to?

Second, he speaks of his friend Epaphroditus (Vss. 25-30).

I want to focus on what Paul says that shows his value:

²⁵ ... your messenger and minister to my need...

²⁸ I am more eager to send him...

Put together, Epaphroditus was Paul's messenger to the church!

This means Paul valued him so much that:

1) He entrusted the carrying/delivery of Paul's letter!

2) He was given all the authority of Paul to the church!

3) He was essentially Paul-to-the-church in Paul's absence!

*Who is/are the Epaphroditus(s) in your life?
Who are you an Epaphroditus to?*

Live as someone who adds value to others!

I want you to think of who came to mind when you think of these men. Also, who you are being a Timothy/Epaphroditus to? Can you imagine a world of people like Timothy and Epaphroditus? We can't make this automatically happen, but we can change the world around us by living as someone who adds value to others!

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