

JOY

FOR THE JOURNEY

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February 29, 2026

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

SUNDAY REFRESHER

Culture has a way of discipling us without asking permission. Much of modern culture tends to encourage us to think first about what benefits me. It's become a me-centered culture, a self-centered culture that primarily ask, "Am I getting my needs met?" and "How does this benefit me?" But in Philippians 2:19–30, we see something different - a community so shaped by Jesus that self-interest loosens its grip and shared concern takes its place.

Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus form a web of interconnected care. A prisoner thinking about his churches. A young leader genuinely concerned for their welfare. A sick man who nearly died delivering encouragement. This is not self-promotion - it is self-giving. And woven through it all is Christ, the One who did not seek His own interests but gave Himself for others. Joy, Paul shows us, is found not in self-centered isolation but in lives braided together in sacrificial love.

- **WEB OF ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP ACTIVITY**

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*

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QUESTIONS

- *Where do you see our culture subtly training you to prioritize your own interests above others?*
- *What would it look like for you to be “genuinely concerned” for someone’s welfare this week - not casually, but intentionally?*
- *How does Jesus’ self-giving love reshape the way you think about ambition, success, and recognition?*
- *Paul said of Timothy, “I have no one like him...” What might change in your life to have the same thing said about you?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Acts 14 | Acts 16

CONCLUSION

If you map out Philippians 2, you don’t see isolated individuals chasing personal platforms - you see a network of affection. Paul cares about the Philippians. The Philippians care about Paul. Timothy cares about both. Epaphroditus risks his life for the sake of Christ and His people. Everybody caring about everybody. And Paul calls it joy.

Because Christ gave Himself for you, you are free. Free from obsessing over your own advancement. Free from measuring your worth by visibility. Free to risk comfort for love. Joy for the journey is not found in being noticed - it is found in being woven together. When our lives are stitched together in shared concern, we begin to reflect the very heart of Jesus.

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don’t let this week’s sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you’re discovering!

JOY