

Memory Verses

Philippians 2:29-30

So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

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The image features a circular teal graphic centered on a background of weathered, greyish-brown wood planks. The word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the teal circle. Below the text, a thin white horizontal line spans the width of the teal circle.

PHILIPPIANS

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Part 11

Faithful Followers of Christ

Philippians 2:19-30

We have learned...

- Paul founded this church about 49AD, in Acts 16 and wrote this about 62AD while in house arrest in Rome
- He thanked them for their gifts, prayers and partnership in the Gospel
- He subtly confronted a problem or potential problem about unity
- He encouraged them to be humble, obedient and stop complaining and walk as lights

Philippians 2:19-30

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me.

Philippians 2:19-30

and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. 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, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death.

Philippians 2:19-30

But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

A. 2:19-22a – Timothy's Character

Paul met Timothy's family early in *Acts 16*. His mom was Jewish and his dad was Greek, so he was probably a Hellenistic (Greek speaking) Jew. He had a believing grandmother and mother and was probably a follower of Christ when they met, as he is called a disciple. Paul brought Timothy with him and disciplined him and he later became the pastor at Ephesus.

A. 2:19-22a – Timothy's Character

Paul *hoped* to send Timothy to them, *if he was to be released*. Timothy was either with him, or nearby so Paul could contact him and send him to Philippi. He wanted to *bless them*, and to be cheered by news of them. That is, Timothy would bring back news about them to Paul.

A. 2:19-22a – Timothy's Character

Paul said he had *no one like him!* What a **compliment!** This tells us about his character. Timothy would *genuinely be concerned about their welfare!* Paul then contrasts "*they,*" who *seek their own interests,* and do not seek after the interests of Jesus! Of whom is Paul talking about? There is *no one specifically mentioned.*

A. 2:19-22a – Timothy's Character

No one like him - It could mean there was no one who was mentored the same as Timothy. Or, Timothy was like-minded or of the same mind as Paul, and in one sense, *his equal*. This was high praise, and may be a way of Paul saying... *like a spiritual father, like a spiritual son*.

A. 2:19-22a – Timothy's Character

Genuinely concerned - Paul describes what Timothy will do, and what he will be like when he arrives, if things work out. Timothy will *truly care* for the *things that are important to the Philippians*. Timothy will *truly be concerned* for their *welfare or well being*, primarily their *spiritual well being*. The *focus is the gospel*, and the things Jesus would be concerned about.

A. 2:19-22a – Timothy's Character

"A more literal translation of this sentence might read, "His proven character you know." The noun rendered here as "proven character" (*dokimē*) refers to the quality of having remained faithful through difficult circumstances. The Jewish historian Josephus uses a verbal form of this word to describe how God put Abraham's faithfulness to the test when he commanded him to sacrifice his son Isaac."

Arnold, C. E. (2002). *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Romans to Philemon*. (Vol. 3, p. 358). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

B. 2:22b-24 – Timothy's Faithfulness

Paul uses the illustration of a *son and father*. Even if Paul didn't bring him to faith, he *disciplined Timothy as his spiritual son*. He was a *faithful son who served with Paul* in the gospel. The word for "served" is slave. Timothy *slaved with Paul in the gospel*. Timothy perhaps *thought of himself as a slave to the gospel*, like Paul. This is an expression of his faithful character.

B. 2:22b-24 – Timothy's Faithfulness

Because of Timothy's *faithfulness in the gospel...* what does that mean? Paul's life was about Christ and Timothy's life reflected that. The *work of the gospel* included and still includes *evangelism, teaching, preaching, and equipping believers to fulfill their ministry.*

Paul longed to see them, stated in 1:8, with the *affection of Jesus Christ.*

C. 2:25-27 – Epaphroditus's Character

Timothy may have not been able to come immediately, so Paul was going to send back Epaphroditus. *Verse 25 starts with I thought it necessary. Another way to say this is, But for now, or I have considered sending...*

He gives 5 character qualities for this man, which is unique because Paul usually lists 3.

C. 2:25-27 – Epaphroditus's Character

My brother – both believed

Fellow worker – both served

Fellow soldier – both fought the good fight

C. 2:25-27 – Epaphroditus's Character

[This] "elicits the image of "a wounded comrade-in-arms, who is being sent back home for rest" (Fee 276; "fellow soldier" [EVV]; "companion in arms" [NJB]). Originally a military term describing those who fight side by side, [this] ...speaks of conflict or persecution, possibly even imprisonment, that Epaphroditus faced with Paul, as they labored together in the gospel... Martial imagery would have resonated strongly at Philippi, which had been established as a colony of veterans. Paul intends συστρατιώτηνας [*systraiotenas*] a "term of honor"... , since Roman generals used the term to portray their soldiers as equal to their commander in chief (συστρατιῶται, Polyaeus *Stratagems*, 8.23.22)." *EGGNT - Philipians*.

C. 2:25-27 – Epaphroditus's Character

Your messenger – They sent him

[Your] minister to my need – He gave their gift

Like Paul, Epaphroditus *longed to see them again*. He was *deeply distressed or troubled*, because he learned they heard he was sick. We are not told *what the sickness was*. But it was **serious!** Epaphroditus was *near to, or at the point of death* (vs. 30).

D. 2:28-30 – Epaphroditus's Faithfulness

He wanted to send him so *they would rejoice at seeing him again*. Once again, we see the *theme of joy!* Also, Paul sent him **so he would be less anxious...** I thought were not to be anxious?

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It's clear in the Greek, but not in English. They are **2 different words**. The word in verse 28 refers to *grief or sorrow, not anxiety*.

D. 2:28-30 – Epaphroditus's Faithfulness

Paul says *receive him in the Lord*, actively welcome him with open arms in the Lord. Paul tells them, and us to *honor men like him*. Honor is to *hold in high personal respect, distinguished or precious*.

In other words, "Receive this man, and honor men who are like him!"

D. 2:28-30 – Epaphroditus's Faithfulness

- In verse 30, he restates *Epaphroditus* was ill near death, *in the work of Christ*. The word for "risk" can mean "reckless or adventuresome," with the *idea of exposing oneself to danger*.
- The verse says it was *to complete what was lacking in their service to him*. He exposed himself to danger in the ministry of Christ and fulfilled what that they were not able to do - **to bring their gift directly to Paul**.



Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

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