

What Matters Most

LEADERSHIP

Philippians 2:19-30

Outline (The Sage, the Son, and the Soldier)

Analysis: These verses are a case study of two men that the church at Philippi were familiar with as leaders. Paul's case study includes these two men because they put into practice the principles of conduct that he had written about in the first part of the letter.

1. **Paul - the Sage (19, 28)**
The purpose for sharing about both men
 - a. Timothy - Soul Encouragement
 - b. Epaphroditus - Stress Relief
2. **Timothy - the Son (20-24)**
 - a. Resume'
 - Genuinely concerned for their welfare
 - Endure testing in ministry
 - Mentored by Paul (spreading the Gospel)
3. **Epaphroditus - the Soldier (25-30)**
 - a. Paul's Commendations
 - My Brother (family affection)
 - My Fellow Worker (laborer in the gospel)
 - My Fellow Soldier (suffered for the gospel)
 - Your Messenger (commissioned to preach)
 - Your Minister to My Need (ministry of presence)
 - b. Resume'
 - The church at Philippi was his home
 - Concerned about their concern for Him
 - Passion for the Gospel (Mission)

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ 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, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me. **Philippians 2:19-30***

Discussion Questions:

1. Soul Encouragement (cheered - literal means good souled) and Stress Relief are vital for all of us in our daily lives. How are you doing in these areas of stress and soul care?
2. Timothy's resume' is impressive! Life and ministry had been modeled well by Paul for him. Do you have a Paul in your life who is an example for you and cheers you on in your walk with God? Do you have a new believer that you play the role of encourager with on a consistent basis?
3. Paul shares a long list of commendations for Epaphroditus (2:19-20). Have you encouraged someone by telling them about the example they set for you? Take some time to connect with someone this week and tell them how much you appreciate their impact on your life.