

Timothy and Epaphroditus: Exemplars

Phil 2:19-30: Water of Life Bible Class, Dr. John Niemelä Nov 21, 2024

(2:19) Paul will send Timothy soon so he can return w/ uplifting update
When the Philippians met Timothy: Acts 16:1; 17:14-15; 20:4-6

(2:20) No one but (of those who knew the Philippians) is like-minded w/ Paul in caring for them [enough to go to Philippi]

(2:21) Some (though available) were unwilling & self-centered, not seeking to please Christ

(2:22) They know Timothy's proven worth, arising from a father-son apprenticeship with Paul

(2:23) Paul hopes to send Timothy as soon as he knows his own situation

(2:24) In addition, Paul expects to come to Philippi soon

Philippians 2:25–27 Repeated by Verses 28–30

2

1. Paul sent Epaphroditus verse 25 and verse 28

2. Epaphroditus ministered to Paul verse 25 and verse 30

3. Epaphroditus almost died verse 27 and verse 30

The Distinction between 25–27 and 28–30

Verses 25–27 focus upon

Verses 28–30 focus upon

The implication

Verses 25–27

3

(2:25) [Though Timothy & Paul would come soon] Epaphroditus should return to Philippi

The meaning of Epaphroditus

Epaphroditus was: a brother

a fellow-worker

a fellow-soldier

your messenger (*apostolos*) = the one you sent

the one who ministered to my need (*leiturgos*)

(2:26) Epaphroditus wants to return, knowing Philippians worry about him

(2:27) Epaphroditus almost died, but God mercifully healed him

Verses 28–30

4

(2:28) Paul returned Epaphroditus to raise their joy & lessen Paul's sorrow

(2:29-30) They should rejoice & welcome Epaphroditus, who almost died ministering to Paul in their stead

Risking (NKJ = not regarding) = *paraboleuomai*

Life = *psuchē* =

What is lacking

CONCLUSION