

Philippians at Home

Week Three: Philippians 2:19-30

Last week, we looked at Jesus, descending from the glory of heaven to the cross, as our supreme model of humble service and self-giving love. The last part of chapter 2 focuses on two of Paul's friends, Timothy and Epaphroditus, as examples of Christ-like service.

Prepare

Find a comfortable seat, grab a Bible and a device to access online content, and ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and mind through your study of Philippians.

Watch & Listen

As Paul encourages us to be like Christ in how we serve, he gives us two more examples to follow: Timothy and Epaphroditus. Paul had mentored and worked alongside both of these men as they followed in the footsteps of the Master. Watch this [4 minute video on mentoring](#) from Christian author, Tim Challies as you consider your call to invest in younger Christians.

Read & Discuss

Scripture Reading One: [Philippians 2:19-24](#)

Paul planned to send Timothy in his place to serve the church in Philippi. Paul was awaiting news on his own imprisonment and hoped to follow Timothy to Philippi in the near future.

- What do you remember about Timothy? Who modeled sincere faith to young Timothy? (See [Acts 16:1-4](#) and [2 Timothy 1:5](#)).
- List the characteristics of Timothy discovered in Philippians 2:19-24. What similar attitudes and actions do you see between Timothy and Jesus?
- Timothy served alongside Paul as a son with a father. Have you had a similar relationship serving alongside a mentor/coach in faith? What did you learn, and how did you grow in the process?
- Who is helping you grow in your faith, today?
- Who are you genuinely caring for today? What next steps can you take to lead them to become flourishing disciples of Jesus?

Scripture Reading Two: [Philippians 2:25-30](#).

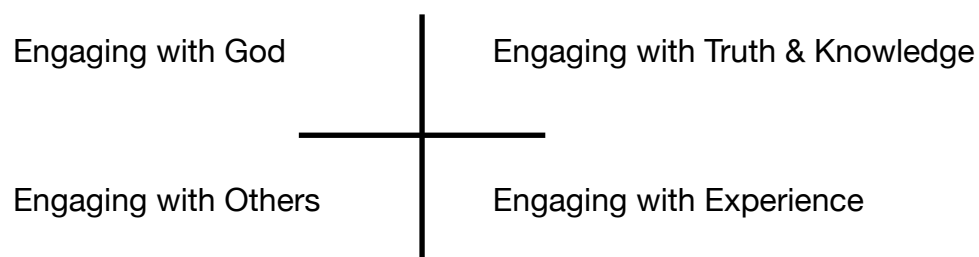
The church in Philippi sent Epaphroditus on their behalf to minister to Paul in prison.

- What is Paul's description of Epaphroditus? How would you describe each of these characteristics in your own words?

- How is Epaphroditus like Christ?
- Paul taught that “to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21) and yet Paul wasn’t a stoic. We get a very real look at Paul’s raw emotions surrounding Epaphroditus’ illness and near death. What was Paul’s emotional state? How have biblical truths helped sustain you in times of emotional turmoil?
- Timothy and Epaphroditus ministered to Paul in prison. But, because Paul counted the church in Philippi as more significant than himself, Paul was willing to give them up and send them back to Philippi. How may you sacrifice your own needs so that others flourish in their walk with Christ?

Apply & Pray

As we seek to coach/mentor young Christians sometimes our best intentions get swallowed up in the many tasks of the day. Try using a discipleship plan for an area of growth this week adapted from Dana Allin’s book, *Simple Discipleship*. Identify one area where God is calling you to grow as you mentor and disciple younger Christians. Next, map out four different strategies for growth in each of the following areas:



Sample: I want to be intentional about praying for my children to grow in their faith.

- **Engaging with God:** Dive in and pray daily for my children’s spiritual growth. Move beyond the ordinary prayers like scraped knees, friends, and help with school to deeper prayer points found in Scripture.
- **Engage with Truth and Knowledge:** Read 3-5 online articles about praying for my kids as I begin to formulate a list of prayer points that are straightforward and simple enough to pray each day. As I read Philippians, record in my journal how Paul prays for the church in Philippi.
- **Engaging with Others:** Talk to my mentor about lessons learned in prayers for her children. Ask for her help to grow in this area.
- **Engaging with Experience:** Begin a prayer journal to organize my new prayer points for my kids. In nightly prayer time with each child, practice praying for these deeper needs discovered in Scripture.

Pray! Commit your goal and strategies for growth to the Lord as you ask for God’s help.