

RESILIENT JOY



A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

SERMON NOTES THE GOSPEL IN REAL LIFE

Philippians 2:19-30

"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me."
(Philippians 2:19-30)

A sampling of "one another's" in the New Testament:

- *"Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom" (Col. 3:16)*
- *"Carry each other's burdens" (Gal. 6:2)*
- *"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Pet. 4:9)*
- *"Confess your sins to each other" (Jam. 5:16) "and forgive one another" (Col. 3:13)*
- *"Spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Heb. 10:24)*
- *"Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'today'" (Heb. 3:13)*
- *"Be devoted to one another" (Rom. 12:10)*



RESILIENT JOY

WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONAL

OVERVIEW OF THE PASSAGE

Have you ever used a YouTube video to learn a new skill? If so, you are not alone—there's something powerful about seeing how something is done before you try it yourself. In calling the Philippians to resilient joy, Paul reminds them of what the gospel looks like in real life by recounting the experiences of Timothy and Epaphroditus. Through the examples of these individuals, we see that as Christians, we have a common family, a common purpose, and a common enemy!

As you read the passage this week, it is a good reminder that we matter to one another. The love that we have for each other is a reflection of the gospel and give us hope and encouragement to carry on!

FAMILY TALK

(Use these questions to prompt conversation with your family after the sermon.)

1. How would you define friendship?
2. What makes someone a close friend? How do you determine who is a close friend?
3. How does Paul talk about his friendships with Timothy and Epaphroditus?
4. How can you strengthen and grow the friendships you are in?
5. Who is a true and authentic friend to you? Who could you be a true friend to?
6. How can you live out a true and authentic friendship practically this week? What are some ways you could elevate Christ over yourself in your friendships?

GOING DEEPER / PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

The "Going Deeper" devotional that accompanies the sermon series provides questions for study, reflection, and application. Plan to take several days to answer the questions giving you more time to process and integrate the passage into your life in a more meaningful way.

Background to the Study:

View the Bible Project overview on Philippians to get a better idea of the content of the book.
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/philippians/>

Phil. 2:19-30

Read the passage and highlight the words or phrases that impacted you the most. Take time to reflect on those words and ask the Spirit to show you what he is revealing to you from this time in the word.

Information Questions:

1. How is Timothy described that shows he was an example of the mind of Christ? (Phil. 2:4) How was Epaphroditus an example of the heart of Christ?
2. In the passage we looked at last week, Paul wrote that as we live obediently with a gospel mindset, we would shine like stars. How did Timothy and Epaphroditus shine like stars?
3. In Verse 30 Paul oddly says the Philippians' gifts to Paul were "lacking" and that Epaphroditus tried to complete them. Why does he say that and what might he mean?

Reflective Questions

1. Reflect how you are being called to submission to Christ, selflessness in Christ, and sacrifice for Christ.
2. Paul says that he has no one else like Timothy who will show genuine concern for the welfare of the Philippians. Timothy has proved himself faithful. Take time to search your heart and ask yourself if you have this same perspective about the way you feel and act toward the people at Hershey Free Church. How would our unity in Christ change if we all had a mindset like Timothy's?
3. Paul sends Epaphroditus back to the Philippian believers and asks the people to welcome him with great joy and show him honor. Think of someone that you can honor and do something tangible to tell/show them why they bring you joy.

Application Questions

1. As we get to this point in Philippians, we have focused on themes of congregational unity, gospel humility, and hope for eternity. This text helps us think about people we should imitate. Is there anyone in your life, past or present, who sets an example in any of these areas? Think about the people in your sphere of influence who can impact with the "real" gospel.
2. Have you ever endured personal loss for the sake of another's benefit? What was the circumstance(s)? Is there a situation in your life currently where you sense God calling you to sacrifice on behalf of another person?
3. There are certain people that we would count as having lived a life worthy of the gospel. Timothy is such a man. He "proved his worth as a son, serving in the gospel". How are you serving the gospel presently? Is there anything about living as a son or daughter of Jesus that would call you to live for the gospel in greater ways?



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read over the following “one another” verses below as a group.

- *“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...” (Colossians 3:16)*
- *“Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)*
- *“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9)*
- *“Confess your sins to each other” (Jam. 5:16) “and forgive one another” (Col. 3:13)*
- *“... spur one another on toward love and good deeds...” (Hebrews 10:24)*
- *“Be devoted to one another...” (Romans 12:10)*

Pick a couple of the verses above to think about as a group. Then rate yourself on the scale below:

- **BOILING:** We rock at that. Our group is a model of “one-anotherness” for other groups to follow.
- **HOT:** We frequently do that with one another, but it isn’t natural or easy.
- **WARM:** I can name a couple times that has happened. But it’s not a hallmark trait of our group.
- **ROOM TEMP:** We are comfortable around each other, but not that comfortable! We need to pursue this harder.

How did you rate your group? Where should you go from here?

**IF YOU HAVE TIME, PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR WORSHIP
ON JULY 5 BY READING PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11.**