



**Pathway Visalia Men's Ministry:
Mar. 2nd – Paul Commends Timothy
“Philippians”**



This next Pathway Men's Ministry meeting will be on Mar. 2nd at 6:30 pm. For those who were unable to attend and for anyone interested, we post the study on our Pathway Visalia website. I pray that you will be able to join us. It is such a blessing to share with one another. Below is an overview of the topics that we will discuss as we work our way through the book of Philippians.

Philippians 2:25-30 - Paul Commends Epaphroditus:

WHO WAS EPAPHRODITUS?

Association with the Philippian Church

Epaphroditus was sent by the church in Philippi to support Paul during Paul's imprisonment (Philippians 2:25-26). His role was multifaceted:

1. **Messenger and Emissary:** He carried the gifts and aid from the Philippians to Paul (Philippians 4:18).
2. **Servant in Ministry:** His service involved not only delivering resources but also caring for Paul's personal and ministry needs.

3. Fellow Worker and Soldier: Paul calls him a “fellow worker and fellow soldier” (Philippians 2:25), indicating Epaphroditus’s active participation in ministry and readiness to endure hardship for the gospel.

Epaphroditus’s Severe Illness

While carrying out his duties, Epaphroditus became gravely ill—so ill that Paul writes he was “near to death” (Philippians 2:27). This trial highlights his dedication:

- **Concern for Others:** Even in sickness, Epaphroditus’s distress was that the Philippians heard of his illness and might have been worried (Philippians 2:26).
- **Divine Mercy:** Paul attributes Epaphroditus’s recovery to God’s mercy (Philippians 2:27). This underscores an early Christian perspective that sustenance and healing come ultimately from God.

25. Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. 26. I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. 27. And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. 28. So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you.

QUESTION: “a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier” - A great description of working together as fellow Christians at church - but there is one word that Paul inserts that is very important - “TRUE”. Let’s talk about experiences you have had where it comes apparent that the person that you worked with demonstrates that they really weren’t saved.

6 Litmus tests to determine if I am a Christian

- 1 - I will want to spend personal time with Christ
- 2 - I will love the things that Christ loves
- 3 - I will love the people the God loves
- 4 - I will hate the thing that God hates
- 5 - I will long for the return of Jesus
- 6 - If I love the Lord then I will keep his commandments.

QUESTION: Now, (on a more positive note) Let's talk about the blessing of working together as a team to further the work of Christ.

QUESTION: "I will not be so worried about you." - Paul stated that he was anxious and worried about the needs of others. Are you anxious or worried about others tonight?

29. Welcome him in the Lord's love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. 30. For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.

QUESTION: Paul outlines 3 ways to welcome Epaphroditus - Love, Joy and Honor. How can we put into practice this encouragement that Paul was instructing the Philippians to demonstrate to Epaphroditus as He returned to them?

QUESTION: Paul also stated that Epaphroditus "risked his life for the work of Christ" - We don't typically have to risk our lives to serve Jesus, but we do often have to risk our work life or our social life to serve Jesus - Share some examples.

THE PRICELESS VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST

Philippians 3:1-11

1. Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

Philippians theme is JOY - and how to get it and to maintain it.

J-Jesus first

O-Others second

Y-Yourself last

QUESTION: "rejoice" - take delight in, find/take pleasure in, find or take satisfaction in, feel satisfaction at, find joy in, enjoy, appreciate, revel in, glory in. - IN THE LORD. How do you show rejoicing in the Lord in your life?

QUESTION: The second point that Paul makes in verse 1 is; " I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith." - What is the purpose of coming to Church?

QUESTION: What can we do to emulate Paul's attitude of; "never getting tired of tell your flock about the things of Christ".

QUESTION: Share a time where you had to confront someone with the truth of the Gospel to safe guard their faith.