



**Pathway Visalia Men's Ministry:
Jan. 5th – Paul Commends Timothy
"Philippians"**



This next Pathway Men's Ministry meeting will be on Jan. 5th 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.

PAUL COMMENDS TIMOTHY - Philippians 2:19-24

19. If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. 20. I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. 21. All the others (those who deserted me after my arrest), care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. 22. But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. 23. I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. 24.

And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

QUESTION: “If the Lord Jesus is willing” - Share how you determine God’s will in a situation or decision that you had to make.

QUESTION: “I hope to send Timothy” - We often have plans and hopes - Share a time where you were certain that you had a plan that the Lord was directing and later you saw that the plan couldn’t be accomplished. How did you respond?

QUESTION: In our day we can almost get instant updates on how people that we love and minister to are doing. What do you do to follow Paul’s example of checking on others?

QUESTION: It's important to have Timothy's in our lives. Share your experience with a person that you have mentored.

QUESTION: vs. 21. "All the others (those who deserted me after my arrest), care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ." - What hurts the most about people who desert you and more importantly - people who you served with and ministered to, who walked away from Jesus?

QUESTION: "Confidence from the Lord" - Share a time when you had full confidence from the Lord in a situation.

Philippians 2:25-30 -Paul Commends Epaphroditus:

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

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.

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 telling your flock"?