

Philippians 2:19-30

19 But I hope, in the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one *else* of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own *interests*, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven character, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child *serv*ing his father. Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things *go* with me; and I trust in the Lord that I myself will also be coming shortly. But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need, because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly, so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned *about you*. Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold people like him in high regard, because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to compensate for your absence in your service to me.

The Joy of Faithful Friends



Solomon in Ecclesiastes describes the value and importance of friendships (Ecc 4:9-12). Within the church we have a "fellowship" - hearts that are knit together (Col 2:2). The idea of "fellow" is that we are in this together with others. We have all kinds of friends (school friends, work friends, family friends, neighborhood friends) - but nothing tops the "Faithful Friends" we have in Christ.

A. This section of Philippians could be called "Servants who cared and who dared"

- following the section on humility and serving others, Paul gives us two living examples:

1. Timothy (2:19,20,22)

- he was being sent as soon as Paul knows what becomes of him in Rome (23)

(a) Four Qualities are Identified:

- K_____ spirit

The word means "e_____ -souled"

1 Sam 18:1

- Genuinely c_____

- P_____ himself

- Cared for Paul

The Common Qualities of Such a Spirit:

P_____ for others

D_____

Go out of _____ for others

Honest and p_____ to Christ

2. Epaphroditus (25)

- He is being sent

immediately with this letter

Called: Brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier your messenger, my minister (Phil 4:18)

- "risking his life" (30) is a term for g_____

He risked his life for the Philippians

- This reminds us that even Paul needed the h_____ of others
- Timothy could not be an apostle, but he could s_____ and help the apostle
- We need to develop u_____ concern for each other (in contrast to some who were not like this - 21)
- Faithful friends e_____, r_____, r_____, s_____ and s_____ our s_____ and our walk with the Lord
 - it's more than just having a good time, they make us b_____ people because of Jesus

Do I have spiritual people like Timothy in my life?

Am I this way for others?