



# SERVING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

WEEK EIGHT | OCT 25, 2020

Philippians 2:19–30  
Pastor Phil Ward

# SERMON OUTLINE

## NOTES

## I. TIMOTHY'S EXAMPLE OF GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP (PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24)

### A. Paul's future travel plans (Philippians 2:19, 23–24)

1. Paul will send Timothy to Philippi to get a report (Philippians 2:19, 1:27)
2. Paul desires to personally be with the church, but will send Timothy if he can't (Philippians 2:12–24; 1 Corinthians 16:5–7; James 4:13–17)
3. Paul is looking forward to hearing a good report (Philippians 2:19b; 1:27; 2:2; 1:3–8)

B. Timothy's compassion and selflessness is a vivid example for us  
(Philippians 2:20-21)

1. Timothy is unique among others because of his genuine compassion for others (Philippians 2:20; 1:8; 2:3)
2. Timothy is unique for how counter-cultural he was in regards to his concern for others (Philippians 2:21; 2:14–16; 2:3–4)
3. Timothy is an example of selfless, humble, sacrificial, love patterned after Jesus and we should follow his example as he followed Christ (Philippians 2:21)

C. Timothy show us how to serve together in the gospel (Philippians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Matthew 25:40)

## II. EPAPHRODITUS' EXAMPLE OF GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP (PHILIPPIANS 2:25-30)

A. Paul intends to send Epaphroditus back home (Philippians 2:25–26)

1. Epaphroditus is a Greek convert and native Philippian sent by the church to minister to Paul (Philippians 4:18)
2. Epaphroditus is concerned for the church (Philippians 2:26)

### B. The distinguished character of Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)

1. He partnered with Paul as: brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier
2. He partnered with the church as: messenger and minister

C. Epaphroditus, and others like him, should be honored for their work (Philippians 2:26-30)

1. Paul commends him and his work to the church as reason to be welcomed joyously (Philippians 2:29–30)
2. Epaphroditus had no position in the church but was an essential partner in the gospel still

### III. SERVING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL BUILDS GOD-GLORIFYING COMMUNITY

A. The church has always been built up through unsung heroes (Acts 8:1; Romans 16)

## PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

- B. The church will always flourish through Christ-like humility and service (Mark 10:42–45; Philippians 2:3–5)

## SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. Who are some of the “unsung heroes” in our community (Brentwood, Antioch, etc.)? Why do you think we rarely make a practice of honoring such people for the work they do?
2. According to Paul, what was it about Timothy and Epaphroditus that made them such honorable men?
3. How did Timothy and Epaphroditus reflect the example of Christ?
4. Do you have to work for a church or religious organization to serve Christ the way that Timothy and Epaphroditus did? What are some ways you can partner with the church in gospel ministry without being an official employee?
5. Do you know of any “unsung heroes” in our church community? Have you ever honored them for the work they do in service to Christ? How can you follow their example as they follow Christ?