



## **The Letter to the Philippians – Lesson 5**

### **Philippians 2:19-30**

Paul's letter to the Philippians is notable not only for its confident and joyful tone, but also for the heartfelt love expressed by Paul toward this community of suffering believers. From the opening sentences of the letter we see that Paul is far more concerned about the welfare of the Philippians than he is about his own imprisonment and uncertain future.

1. Read Philippians 2:19-24 *Paul plans to send Timothy to Philippi.*
  - a. Write several descriptive statements about Timothy that you find in this passage.
  - b. Timothy was one of Paul's most trusted helpers. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-9—the opening paragraphs of Paul's last letter to Timothy. What is striking to you about Paul's tender relationship with Timothy?
  - c. Review Philippians 1:12-18. What is Paul's foremost priority in life?
  - d. What do you infer about Timothy's priorities in life?
  - e. Why was Paul determined to send an emissary to the Philippian believers? What was the primary purpose of this mission?
  - f. What is surprising to you (or inspiring to you) about what you observe of Paul's concern for the Philippians at this time?

g. **For personal reflection:** Consider the spiritual depth, purpose, and mutual encouragement that Paul and Timothy enjoyed. How would such a relationship enrich your own life at this time? How would such a relationship bring increased glory to God? Perhaps you may want to make this a matter of your own personal prayer.

2. Read Philippians 2:25-30 *Paul is sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi.*

- a. Read Philippians 4:18 along with 2:25. What was the occasion (or the need) that brought Epaphroditus to Paul?
- b. What happened to Epaphroditus after he arrived in Rome?
- c. What was the outcome of Epaphroditus' condition? Who does Paul credit as the cause of this good result?
- d. Why was Paul eager to send Epaphroditus back to Philippi?
- e. In what way are Timothy and Epaphroditus examples of the Christlike humility that Paul hopes to see developed in the Philippian church?

Timothy and Epaphroditus are just two of many godly men sent by God to help and encourage Paul during the course of his life. Such friends and co-workers were gifts from God. Think in your own life of the people who have been clearly placed there by God to challenge you, encourage you, comfort you, and support you. As you contemplate this list, take a moment to pray and thank God for His provision and grace.