

GSM

Philippians 2:19-30

I. Philippians 2:19

A. **I trust- elpis-** present tense- *I am hoping [confidently expecting]*

1. Paul learned what James said in **James 4:15-16-** Say if the Lord wills....

a. **1 Cor. 4:19**

b. **Acts 18:21**

c. **Romans 1:10**

d. **Romans 15:32**

2. If we have not heard from the Lord all boasting in the future is evil

B. **send Timothy-** Gr. **Timotheos-** *One who honors God*

1. Timothy had the character of his name. He honored God, not himself

2. Timothy had a servant's heart- He loved God and wanted to serve where God wanted him to

3. Timothy had helped Paul establish the Philippian church

4. He was unlike young Mark who was about the same age who went with Paul on his first missionary journey. Mark was looking out for himself and abandoned Paul when they needed him.

However, Timothy stuck by Paul even when it was dangerous and hard going. Timothy stuck by Paul unto the end and stayed faithful to his post after he died.

5. Paul was sending Timothy as a servant to minister to them

C. **I also-** Paul was concerned with their state, but who is the **also** referring to? It is Timothy! Timothy generally cared about this church and how they were doing. He had a genuine interest and care for them. This came from the love of Christ in His heart and His fellowship with Christ- the same place Paul got his from.

1. **Paul uses Timothy as the fourth example of servant hood** in this chapter. He was an example of a humble servant. The Philippians could learn from him.

D. **good comfort-** Gr. **eupsuchoo-** *do well in soul*

1. Both Paul and Timothy were concerned if this church was standing against persecution and were still strong in their faith in the Lord

2. Both of them had inward tension that is experienced when a dear love one is undergoing difficulty or hardship
3. Even though Timothy did not get the main credit for founding this church, he was emotionally attached to them as much as Paul was and genuinely loved them.

II. Philippians 2:20

- A. **For I have no man-** Paul did not even have one other person on his ministry staff like Timothy. He was the only one. This is sad.
- B. **Like minded-** Gr. **isopsuchos-** of *equal soul-* we need to team up with those who are of equal soul –those who have the same way of thinking and the desire to glorify God and the determination to pursue it at all costs.
- C. **naturally-** Gr. **gnesios-** *genuinely*
- D. **care-** Gr. **merimnao-** *anxious care*
- E. **your state-** the things that pertain to you

III. Philippians 2:21

- A. **For all-** every single person except Timothy
- B. **seek-** Gr. **zeteo-** *are seeking or looking out for*
- C. **their own things and not the things of Jesus Christ**
 1. All of those around Paul were in the ministry for what it would do for them or what it could get them to some degree.
 2. Paul was one of the biggest names in the ministry. Many young ministers wanted to be on his team and be seen with him. They wanted to be mentored by him. They wanted the kind of recognition Paul received.
 3. Things have not changed. If that was the way it was back then, it is the same today. People have not changed. The majority of those in the ministry today are in it for themselves instead of to honor and glorify God.
 4. It is vital to understand grace and your identity in Christ before you enter the ministry or you will use the ministry and people to meet your own emotional needs for value, worth, and importance. This will hinder the flow of the Spirit of Christ through you. Many really want a growing ministry for their own desire for recognition and honor instead of their love for people and to glorify God.

5. We need to allow the Lord to examine our motives in the ministry- only the Lord can show us wrong motives, because we are blind to them.

D. How did Paul know this about his ministry staff? He did not quiz them or give them a questionnaire. They did not tell him this. Paul knew this by the Holy Spirit.

1. As leaders who have those under us we need to rely on the Holy Spirit to show us those who have wrong motives for ministry- Many young people will be zealous and gifted, but a lot of times this zeal is driven by the flesh- legalism or a desire for acceptance [from God or others]. These people are not ready for large responsibilities. They will end up causing big problems and hurt people.

2. The Lord knows the hearts of all men. The closer you walk with the Lord, the more you will see unseen things in people like their motives. You can sense these by the Spirit of God. Paul could sense that only Timothy genuinely cared about the Philippians themselves and really wanted to see them grow and be blessed. He had no interest in being seen or taking credit for anything

E. **2 Timothy 4:16-17**- When things get tough and it does not look good you will see the true motives of those around you. We see here what happened to Paul when he did go before Nero for the first time. All forsook him! Now Timothy had already been sent to Philippi, so he was not there. However, all the other people on his ministry staff who had their own self interests and not of Jesus, found something else to do when it looked like it was the end for Paul. To forsook him!

IV. Philippians 2:22

A. **you know**- Gr. **ginosko**- *are progressively coming to know*

B. **the proof**- Gr. **dokime**- *tested and proven character*- Timothy was proven faithful time and time again. He kept a good attitude over time. These are people that should be promoted to greater service especially visible leadership.

C. **son with a father**- as in the family business- The ministry is the family business- We all are serving as sons to a Father from the basis of love. Timothy served God and Paul out of love for them.

D. **serving**- Gr. **douleuo**- *served as a slave*

1. This is the balance of ministry. When we realize we are sons of a loving Father who gives us complete acceptance through Christ it frees us to become the servants of others. We must have a revelation first of sonship before we will be able to truly assume servanthood to others.

F. John 13:3-4

1. Jesus knew all things were given to Him from the Father. He had the revelation of Sonship
2. He knew where He came from and knew where He was going
3. Upon this knowledge and understanding, Jesus took the slaves towel and served others
4. The God-man got on his knees and washed dirty feet. He could do this because He knew who He was
5. We will be able to truly serve others when we know full well where we came from, who we are, what has been given to us, and where we are going.

G. The parable of the prodigal son taught this principle- Luke 15

1. The prodigal son who left home thought he must become a slave because he dis-earned sonship
2. The elder son who stayed home thought he had to slave to deserve sonship
3. Jesus reveals that we are sons by grace and he gives to us freely as sons, from this basis we can and will serve Him freely out of love

H. with me

1. The both served the Father as sons.

I. In the gospel

1. The message of the gospel of grace was the power that caused both Paul and Timothy to be able to serve people with a humble and genuine heart
2. The served out of the fullness of sonship. They knew they had received all from Him freely in Christ. They knew where they came from [the pit they come from], who they were [sons of God], and where they were going [heaven]. They could then serve others in humility and genuineness.

V. Philippians 2:23

A. **I am trusting [lit. hoping]**- again he is not boasting in the future and putting his plans in God's hands

B. **as soon as I see how it shall go with me**- the outcome of his imprisonment and his defense before Nero.

1. See- Gr. **apeido**- *to look away from something to look at something else.*
2. Paul was so focused on Christ and ministering to those who he was with each day, he said that he would have to look away from that to see how things are going in the natural.
3. In **Philippians 1:20**, Paul said he had chosen to turn his head from all the natural circumstances and look fully at Christ. Now here, he said that he would turn his head back to check up on how things were going in the natural. Wow! Most of us have our head turned and eyes focused on our circumstances and every once in a while turn our head to check in with God!

VI. Philippians 2:24

A. **But I trust in the Lord**- Gr. **peitho**- perfect tense. *I have become persuaded.* He **hoped** to send Timothy to them, but Paul is not merely hoping to be released from prison. He has become **persuaded** of it. He had received the inward witness and inward knowing from the Lord that he would be remaining on the earth.

1. If Paul was not released from prison, he would surely be executed. This is what Paul referred to in chapter 1 when he talked about being in a strait between dying or remaining on the earth. He came to the persuasion then that the Lord wanted him to stay so that meant Paul would be released.
2. Our fate is not left to other people. Our future is in God's hand.
3. If we are sensitive to the inward witness it will bring us great stability no matter what is going around us. This inward witness will grow stronger and more distinct the closer our fellowship with the Lord becomes.

B. **I also shall come shortly to you**- This came true. He was released and did visit them again.