

## GSM

### Philippians 2:25-30

#### I. Philippians 2:25

A. Paul now brings up Epaphroditus as the fifth example of servant hood in this chapter as a teaching lesson to the Philippian church.

B. **supposed-** Gr. **hegeomai-** *to lead the way-* Paul took the first step and decided to send Epaphroditus back to them even though they had not asked for Paul to send him back.

1. The church had sent him to Paul to give them their financial offering and for him to assist him in their behalf.

2. They had heard that he had gotten sick and were worried about him, however, they knew Paul needed help so they had not asked Paul to send him back.

3. Paul made this decision on his own- he took the first step in this situation in order that they might be comforted. Paul could have used the further help, but he knew it would relieve the Philippians to see him come back in good condition. To serve the Philippians Paul is sending him back home.

C. **Epaphroditus-** Gr. *graceful, lovely-* He was as his name represented. He was gracious and his service was lovely to the Philippians and to Paul.

1. Some say he was the bishop of Philippi. We have no way of knowing for sure. I believe he was just one of the serving bishops/elders in the church.

D. **my brother** - Gr. **adelphos-** *one from the same womb.*

1. Before we can work as one and fight as one we must see and keep in mind that we all are from the same Father and same womb. We are related to one another by spiritual birth. Keeping in mind that **ALL** fellow Christians share the same Father and the same spiritual womb, which is grace, will help us work together in unity in the natural

E. **my fellow laborer-** Gr. **sunergos-** *co-worker*

1. Again serving and working comes out of sonship with God and with the brotherhood between each other

2. this is the same as between Paul and Timothy- "as a son with a father, serving..." vs. 22

3. labor speaks of our works of faith. Much can be accomplished when we work together in faith

F. **my fellow soldier-** Gr. **sustratiotes-** co-soldier or co-strategist

G. "Brothers" speak of our **relationship with God and to fellow Christians**, "co-laborers" speaks of our **relation to the world and the lost**, and "fellow soldiers" speaks of our **relation to our common enemy- Satan and his cohorts**. We need to get this in proper order- Brother, worker, soldier. Often times instead of fighting **for** one another, we fight **against** one another. Instead of having our back protected by each other we get our back stabbed by each other. We need to lift up our visor often on the battlefield and recognize the soldier next to us is our brother.

H. To be effective in these three areas- in the church, in the world, and against our enemy- we must be in unity. It all starts with our relationship however with God and each other.

I. **But your messenger- Gr. apostolos-** *sent one with authority*

1. This does not mean he was an apostle **of the Lord**. He was an apostle of the church at Philippi.

2. There are **5 classes or different kinds of apostles**- 4 of them are apostles of God and of the Lord Jesus and 1 class are apostles or delegates of churches or groups of people and not from the Lord directly.

a. **1st class- Jesus Christ**- He is the only one in this category! He is called the **Apostle** and High Priest of our confession- **Hebrews 3:1**

b. **2nd class- twelve apostles of the Lamb**- the twelve disciples of Jesus- Matthais replaced Judas

c. **3rd class- Foundational apostles of the Lord- Ephesians 2:19-20**

1a. These men laid down the foundational doctrines of the NT. and had their part in the writing of the NT and establishing the NT church- **Ephesians 3:4-5**

2a. **1 Cor. 3:10**- Paul was a foundational apostle for the church

3a. Apostle John was the last foundational apostle of the church- He was the last to write scripture

d. **4th class- Equipping Apostles- Ephesians 4:11**

1. This class of apostles are still in the church and in the earth. They will be here until Christ comes back. We need maturing and equipping until Christ returns. These apostles start churches and new works for God. They are sent out by the Lord often in connection with a home church- ex. Paul and Antioch.

c. **5th class- those sent as delegates by churches or groups-** these are sent ones but not from the Lord Himself- Epaphroditus is one of this apostles of the church of Philippi sent to aid Paul.

J. **ministered-** Gr. **leitourgos-** *we get the English word liturgy from this. This word means one who performs religious service for God.* It was used of serving in the temple. We can treat every thing we do as sacred service as priests to God, even doing the laundry or dishes! Ex. Brother Lawrence.

1. Epaphroditus served from his heart in such a way that he saw everything he did as service to God Himself. He served Paul as if He was doing it for Jesus Himself.

2. **Colossians 3:17-** Do everything in His name.

3. **Colossians 3:23-** it is easier to do all the natural duties man asks from us, when we turn all those things in acts of worship and service to Christ Himself

K. **to my wants-** Gr. **chreia-** lit. necessities or needs, not wants or whims.

1. Those under you should serve to meet your needs not your whims.

2. It greatly displeases the Lord to use or abuse people under you for your fleshly whims

## II. Philippians 2:26

A. **For he longed after-** Gr. **epipotheo-** *to yearn after-* this is the same word Paul used of himself longing after the Philippians.

B. **Full of heaviness-** Gr. **ademoneo-** pres. tense- *to be distressed in mind; to be greatly burdened.*

1. This word only occurs two other times in the NT. Both refer to the distress of the Lord Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

2. This man had such a heart for others, that he became greatly troubled the others knew that he was sick unto death and might be worried about him!

3. This exemplifies the laying aside of self even in the midst of our own problems. This was like Jesus who thought of others while on his cross- He prayed for those who crucified him, he ministered salvation to the thieves, he cared for his mother, and looked to God in trust.

C. **Because you heard he was sick-** Gr. **astheneo-** *in a weakened state*

### III. Philippians 2:27

- A. **Was nigh unto death-** Gr. **paraplesion-** *next door neighbors-* Epaphroditus was right next door to death. He and death were neighbors.
- B. **But God had mercy on him-** God healed him. When we get answers to prayer the focus needs to be on God and not we who prayed or believed. We do not know if Paul prayed for him, someone else, or Epaphroditus himself believed God. All we know is that the mercy of God was revealed. This is the way it should be!
1. Often we want to secretly take credit for answered prayer.
  2. Jesus would often tell people after He healed them not to tell anyone but give glory to God. **Luke 5:14**
- C. **Not on him only, but also on me-** God had mercy also on Paul. God desires to show mercy. Sometimes when our faith is weak for healing or for anything else it will be strengthened when we place it in God's mercy. God gives mercy when we have not done everything right. Mercy relieves suffering even if we have a part to play in it.
- D. **Sorrow upon sorrow-** Gr. **lupe-** *sorrow, pain, grief- sorrow stacked upon sorrow.* Many think that if you have a great revelation of God and have strong faith that you will never experience sorrow, pain, or grief. This is not true. We will experience this but we will also experience the great comfort and deliverance of God as well
1. **2 Cor. 1:5-** sufferings abound but so does comfort
  2. **2 Cor. 6:10-** sorrowing [pres. tense] but always rejoicing
  3. **Ps. 34:19-** We will all face afflictions but the Lord delivers from the all!

### IV. Philippians 2:28

- A. Paul is sending Epaphroditus back more quickly than was planned or even what is expedient for Paul, because he knows it will be a comfort to the Philippians
- B. **That I be less sorrowful-** Paul will be less sorrowful when the Philippians are comforted. Paul and Epaphroditus have the same heart as Jesus. Even though Paul is suffering in prison and could use the help, he is sending Epaphroditus back to them because it would make them feel better. Paul is putting them before himself and what he wants.

## V. Philippians 2:29

- A. **receive him in the Lord**- This means to accept him without judging him. When people get sick it sometimes is the tendency of some to judge them for getting sick. **Romans 14:1-3**- We must accept other Christians without judging them.
- B. **hold such in reputation**- Gr. **echo entimos**- hold in honor- we are to honor those who serve others as the Lord does- **John 12:26**

## VI. Philippians 2:30

- A. **For the work of Christ he was nigh unto death**- He nearly worked himself to death!
1. Serving hard is admirable but sometimes the enemy can push us in the area of our strengths and they can become our downfall. Ex. Jesse Duplantis working too hard
  2. It is not God's will that we work ourselves to death!
  3. I neither want to burn out or rust out!
  4. You need to know when to rest and take a break or even take a vacation.
  5. This is part of the reason God healed Epaphroditus out of mercy, because he had a part to play in getting sick. He over did it!
- B. **Not regarding his life**- Gr. **parabouleomai**- *not consulting with*.
1. Epaphroditus did not consult with his body or soul, which were telling him to slow down! He had a complete breakdown.
  2. We live in a natural body- we do need to consult with it from time to time and listen to its warning signs.
- C. We are not to judge this man, but learn lessons from it. We are to hold him and such like him in honor for his desire to serve.
- D. **To supply**- Gr. **anapleroo**- *to fill up*
- E. **Lack of service**- *deficiency in sacred service*