

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the

PHILIPPIANS


Lesson 5: Three Examples of Humility
Philippians 2:17-30

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. What two words in Philippians 2:17 describe true Christian ministry?
2. In Philippians 2:21, what are two things that people can seek?
3. In Philippians 2:22, how did Paul describe his relationship with Timothy?
4. Who delivered this letter to Philippi for Paul?
5. In Philippians 2:25, what are the three ways Paul described his relationship with Epaphroditus?

We are at the third section of Chapter Two:

Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

1. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (1-4)
2. Christ's Example of Humility (5-16)
-  3. **Paul's Example of Humility** (17, 18)
4. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)
5. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

C. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)

Paul's great joy in life was to spend himself completely for the sake of the gospel.

Philippians 2:17

¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

C. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)

These two words –
sacrifice and service –
describe true Christian
ministry.

Philippians 2:17

¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon **the sacrifice
and service** of your faith,
I joy, and rejoice with you all.

C. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)

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¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

⁸ So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, **but also our own souls,** because ye were dear unto us.

C. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)

The people who knew him best understood this, and rejoiced with him for his ministry.

Philippians 2:17-18

- ¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
- ¹⁸ For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

C. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)

Remember, he wrote
this letter from prison!
Could we rejoice in
such circumstances?

Philippians 2:17-18

¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice
and service of your faith,

I joy, and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸ For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

C. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)


But this was the same man who sang praises to God while shackled in a Philippi jailhouse.

Acts 16:22-25

- ²² And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat *them*.
- ²³ And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:
- ²⁴ Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.
- ²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Next, Paul honors the example of his son in the faith:

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-  4. **Timothy's Example of Humility** (19-24)
5. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

Paul knew that Timothy had the same care and concern for the people of God. That is why he wanted to send him to Philippi to learn how they were doing there.

Philippians 2:19-21

- ¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
- ²⁰ For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.
- ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

Timothy was an example of the selfless service that Paul applauded at the start of this chapter.

Philippians 2:19-21

- ¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
- ²⁰ **For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.**
- ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

Truly, no one can serve two masters.

Philippians 2:19-21

- ¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
- ²⁰ For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.
- ²¹ **For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.**

Luke 16:13

- ¹³ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

Timothy had proven himself to be a true servant of the Lord Jesus. He had a good reputation among the believers.

Philippians 2:22

²² But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

Previously, Paul showed the equality between God the Father and God the Son. Now he writes that, like a father and son, he and Timothy were equals in their gospel service. As for honor, they *both* “esteemed the other better than themselves.”

Philippians 2:22

²² But ye know the proof of him, that, **as a son with the father,** he hath served with me in the gospel.

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

As he wrote this letter, Paul did not know how long he would be kept in prison. He would send Timothy and hopefully join him soon.

Philippians 2:23-24

- ²³ Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.
- ²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

D. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)

No one knows what tomorrow may bring.
We must leave our plans
in the hands of the Lord.

Philippians 2:23-24


- ²³ Him therefore I hope to send presently,
so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.
²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come
shortly.

James 4:14-15

- ¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow.
For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for
a little time, and then vanisheth away.
¹⁵ For that ye *ought* to say, **If the Lord will,**
we shall live, and do this, or that.

Paul now offers Epaphroditus as another example of true humility:

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1. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (1-4)
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3. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)
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-  5. **Epaphroditus's Example of Humility** (25-30)

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

Paul *planned* to send Timothy, and *hoped* to come himself. But it was Epaphroditus who took this letter to Philippi.

Philippians 2:25

²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

Paul's words show his love and respect for this man:

My brother,
Companion in labour,
Fellowsoldier.

Philippians 2:25

²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you
Epaphroditus,
my brother,
and companion in labour,
and fellowsoldier,
but your messenger,
and he that ministered to my wants.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

Epaphroditus brought an offering from Philippi to Paul, and stayed to help him.

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Paul acknowledges their offering in Chapter 4:18

¹⁸ ... I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

While he was in Rome,
he had been Paul's
servant, attending to his
daily needs.

Philippians 2:25

²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you
Epaphroditus,
my brother,
and companion in labour,
and fellowsoldier,
but your messenger,
and he that ministered to my wants.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

The postscript at the end of Philippians – “To the Philippians written from Rome, by Epaphroditus” – shows that he was Paul’s secretary for this book.

Philippians 2:25

²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you
Epaphroditus,
my brother,
and companion in labour,
and fellowsoldier,
but your messenger,
and he that ministered to my wants.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

During his stay in Rome, Epaphroditus became gravely ill. Thankfully, he had recovered.

Philippians 2:26-27

- ²⁶ For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.
- ²⁷ For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

Paul knew that the Christians in Philippi were worried about him, so now that he was better, he was sending him home.

Philippians 2:28

²⁸ I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

Paul wanted the believers to realize this was a rare man even among Christians.

Philippians 2:29-30

- ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:
- ³⁰ Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

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Philippians 2:29-30

- ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:
- ³⁰ Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a

- ¹² And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
- ¹³ And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake...

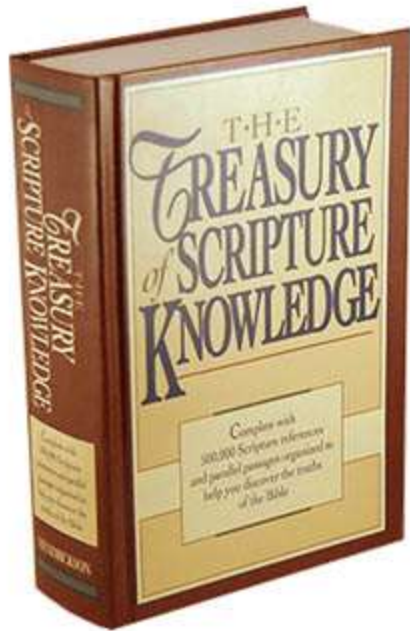
E. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

Only two things about the nature of his service to Paul are known –

- 1) it put his health at risk, and
- 2) it was something the Philippians could not do themselves.

Philippians 2:29-30

- ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:
- ³⁰ Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.



Overview - Philippians 2

- 1 Paul exhorts them to unity, and to all humbleness of mind, by the example of Christ's humility and exaltation;
- 12 to a careful proceeding in the way of salvation, that they be as lights to the wicked world,
- 16 and comforts to him their apostle, who is now ready to be offered up to God.
- 19 He hopes to send Timothy to them, and Epaphroditus also.

The Structure of Philippians

Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

UP NEXT → Chapter 3: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. What two words in Philippians 2:17 describe true Christian ministry?
2. In Philippians 2:21, what are two things that people can seek?
3. In Philippians 2:22, how did Paul describe his relationship with Timothy?
4. Who delivered this letter to Philippi for Paul?
5. In Philippians 2:25, what are the three ways Paul described his relationship with Epaphroditus?

Each question is worth 20 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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