

## Exegetical Notes – Philippians 2:19-30

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### Philippians 2:19-30

#### Verses 19-24

<sup>19</sup> *I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.* <sup>20</sup> *I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.* <sup>21</sup> *For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.* <sup>22</sup> *But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.* <sup>23</sup> *I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.* <sup>24</sup> *And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.*

- In 1 Timothy 1:18, Paul refers to Timothy as his “son.” Timothy was not Paul’s biological son. His father was a gentile, non-Jew. His mother was Eunice. She was a devout Jew. Her mother was Lois. Since one’s being a Jew was determined by his mother’s being a Jew, Timothy was, technically Jewish. But he did not practice Judaism, probably because his biological father did not allow it. But his mother and grandmother taught him the principles of their faith and led him to Jesus. He became associated with Paul on Paul’s second missionary journey (see 2 Timothy 1:5 and Acts 16:1-3). Timothy proved himself to be loyal to Paul and to the Lord (see verse 22). When Paul left Ephesus, he appointed Timothy to stay behind and lead that Church. Paul says that he has no one like Timothy who lays his own interests aside and puts those of others first. He bears the image of Christ (see verses 20-22).
- Paul wants to send Timothy to visit the Philippians for two reasons: 1. That they may be cheered by news directly from him; and 2. That when Timothy returns to him, he may be cheered by news of them.
- Paul intends to send Timothy to visit the Philippians soon. After Timothy’s visit, he plans to visit Philippi himself.

#### Verses 25-30

<sup>25</sup> *But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take*

*care of my needs. <sup>26</sup> For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup> So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, <sup>30</sup> because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.*

- Timothy will come to visit soon. But Paul is sending Epaphroditus to them immediately. The Philippians had sent Epaphroditus to Paul in Rome. He brought Paul a financial gift from the Philippians. While in Rome with Paul, Epaphroditus had become critically ill and almost died. The Philippians had become distressed over the news of Epaphroditus' illness and, knowing they were concerned about him concerned Epaphroditus, too. Paul is sending him back to Philippi so that they may comfort each other.
- He is to be honored among them as one who was willing to lay down his life in service to the Lord, as Jesus had laid down His own life to save us. He is, like Timothy, an example of one who bears the very image of Christ.

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