

**LIVING IN A SINFUL WORLD  
BEING SERVANTS OF THE LORD  
PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30**

**Introduction**

If you've been in **CHURCH** any amount of time, you've probably come across some of the **LORD'S CHOICEST SERVANTS** who have made a **GREAT AND LASTING IMPACT** upon a **CHURCH** that you were a part of, the lives of others, and even your own life.

Even as I say those words, faces of certain individuals in each **CHURCH** I've been associated with come to mind! I've been **BLESSED** to have some **VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE TOUCH** and **INFLUENCE** my own life in **GREAT** and **LASTING WAYS** through their **SERVICE FOR THE LORD!**

I have been **BLESSED** to have been around some **SPECIAL FOLKS** who displayed the **PRESENCE OF GOD** in their lives and were a **GREAT BLESSING** to those whose lives they touched.

Understand that I'm not just talking about **PREACHERS** or even **TEACHERS**, but about some folks who were some of the **LORD'S CHOICEST SERVANTS** even though they may not have been in the limelight.

In our text this morning we're going to see two **SPECIAL SERVANTS OF THE LORD** who were of tremendous **HELP** to the **APOSTLE PAUL** and **SERVED THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FAITHFULLY**— **TIMOTHY** (or **TIMOTHEUS**) and **EPAPHRODITUS**.

**READ THE TEXT.**

It is believed that **PAUL** first met **TIMOTHY** on his first missionary journey. **TIMOTHY** is first mentioned in **Acts 16:1-3** on **PAUL'S** second missionary journey to **Listra**. Regardless of when it was, **PAUL** considered the young **TIMOTHY** as his own "*dearly beloved son*" in the **FAITH**.

*1 Timothy 1:2 – "Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith..."*

*2 Timothy 1:2 – "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son..."*

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No doubt the **APOSTLE PAUL** had a **GREAT IMPACT** upon this young man as he enlisted the young **TIMOTHY** to be one of his **FELLOW LABORERS!** **PAUL** took **TIMOTHY** under his wing and disciplined him.

Under the **LEADERSHIP** of the **APOSTLE PAUL**, **TIMOTHY** was **MOLDED** into **A GREAT SERVANT OF THE LORD** and was very **BENEFICIAL** to the **MINISTRY OF CHRIST** and became a **GREAT HELPER** to **PAUL**, especially in his last days of **MINISTRY**.

**So, what CHARACTERISTICS make for a SERVANT OF THE LORD?**

**I. BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S HEART. (2:19-24)**

It is obvious that **PAUL** was concerned about the **CHURCH** at **PHILIPPI**. He wanted to send someone to both **CONVEY HIS CONCERN** and to **ACCURATELY REPORT BACK** to him on the **WELFARE OF THE CHURCH**.

**PAUL** was imprisoned in **ROME** at the time of writing this **EPISTLE**. There were certainly a great number of **BELIEVERS** in **ROME**. We know **PAUL** sent greetings to 26 of them by name in the last chapter of his book to the **ROMANS**.

Yet it appears that none of them were available to make this important trip for **PAUL**. They were so busy about their own lives that they had no time for this **IMPORTANT WORK OF THE LORD. (Vs 20-21)**

Sadly, this is one of the great and growing tragedies in most **CHURCHES** today also. It seems as though more and more we see that a great majority of **BELIEVERS'** time, energy and concern are diverted away from the things should matter the most to selfish, temporal interests.

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Even though **PAUL** had no one else he could depend on, he knew that **TIMOTHY CARED FOR PEOPLE** and was **CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR NEEDS**. And **PAUL'S** desire was to send **TIMOTHY** to do what the **APOSTLE PAUL** could not do himself.

**TIMOTHY** had a **GODLY CONCERN** for the **WELFARE OF OTHERS** because he had a **SERVANT'S HEART**. **TIMOTHY** was not involved in promoting his own interests, rather, he was interested only in **OTHERS**, including the **SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF GOD'S PEOPLE**. How did this **GODLY CONCERN** develop? Well, that brings us to the next point.

*BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S HEART...*

**II. BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S TRAINING.**

The kind of **HEART** that **TIMOTHY** had was **NOT** a **NATURAL TRAIT!** By **NATURE** we are **PRONE TO BE SELFISH** and **LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE!**

**TIMOTHY** became what he was because of the **DILIGENT EFFORTS** of other **CHOICE SERVANTS OF THE LORD!**

- A. There Was The TRAINING Under FAITHFUL FAMILY MEMBERS! (Grandmother And Mother)**  
*(2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15)*
- B. There Was The TRAINING Under The APOSTLE PAUL. (Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:1-2; 3:10, 14)**
- C. There Was The TRAINING Under OTHERS IN THE CHURCH At LYSTRA. (Acts 14:6-7, 21-22; 16:1-2)**

All of this **TRAINING** was **BASED IN SCRIPTURE!**

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*BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S HEART...REQUIRES A SERVANT'S TRAINING...*

**III. BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES THE ACTIONS OF A SERVANT. (2:25-30)**

Just to call one a **SERVANT OF THE LORD** does not make them a **SERVANT OF THE LORD!**

To be a **TRUE SERVANT OF THE LORD** requires **THE ACTIONS OF A SERVANT!** We certainly see that in **TIMOTHY!**

Now let's look at **PAUL'S** mention of another **SERVANT OF THE LORD** who was such a one— **EPAPHRODITUS**.

**PAUL** was a "*Hebrew of the Hebrews*"—i.e. A full blooded Jew. **TIMOTHY** was part **JEW** and part **GENTILE**. **EPAPHRODITUS** was believed to be a full **GENTILE** whose **GREEK** name meant "*charming*." There is something "*charming*" about one who **LIVES HIS FAITH!** Amen!

**EPAPHRODITUS** was the member of the **PHILIPPIAN CHURCH** who had risked both his life and health to deliver their **MISSIONARY OFFERING** to **PAUL** in **ROME** and to **HELP PAUL** at **ROME. (4:18)**

**A. Note That He Was A BALANCED BELIEVER! (Vs 25)**  
Notice **PAUL'S** three-fold description of him:

- 1. "*brother*" — He was **SAVED** by **BELIEVING THE GOSPEL** which made him a "**BROTHER**".
- 2. "*companion in labor*" — He was **SERVING** with others for the furtherance of **GOD** and the **GOSPEL!**

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3. **“fellowsoldier”**— He was a **SOLDIER**  
**DEFENDING THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL!**

**B. Note That He Was A BURDENED BELIEVER!**

*(Vs 25-27, 30)*

He, like **TIMOTHY**, **SHOWED** his **CONCERN** by his **ACTIONS!**

1. He was **BURDENED** about **PAUL**. *(Vs 25, 30)*  
Volunteering to deliver the **CHURCH’S** love gift.  
He wasn’t content just **GIVING** an offering.  
He **GAVE HIMSELF** to help carry the offering.

2. He was **BURDENED** about his **CHURCH** in **PHILIPPI**. *(Vs 26-27)*

Because they were concerned about him.

**C. Note That He Was A BELOVED BELIEVER! (Vs 28-30)**

What a **TRAGEDY** it is to go through life and **NOT BE A BLESSING** to anyone!

**EPAPHRODITUS** was not that way! He was a **BLESSING TO PAUL** and he was a **BLESSING TO HIS CHURCH!**

**PAUL** exhorted the **CHURCH** at **PHILIPPI** to **HONOR** him because of his **SACRIFICE** and **SERVICE!**

Now we know that **CHRIST** is to get **ALL** the **GLORY** from whatever is accomplished through us. But, there is nothing wrong with **HONORING** those who **GLORIFY CHRIST** with their **LIFE** and **SERVICE!**

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13—“And we beseech you, brethren, to*

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*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.”*

**EPAPHRODITUS** had **SACRIFICED** himself with no thought of reward, but **PAUL** encouraged the **CHURCH** to **HONOR** him.

**Conclusion**

We’ve seen here in **PHILIPPIANS** three **GREAT SERVANTS OF THE LORD—THE APOSTLE PAUL, TIMOTHY, and EPAPHRODITUS**. All three of these men were cut out of the same **PATTERN** that we are to **FOLLOW—THE PATTERN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Their lives were **INFLUENCED** by others who came before them so that they became a **GREAT INFLUENCE** in the lives of even more!

Do you have what it takes to be such an **INFLUENTIAL SERVANT** yourself? *BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT’S HEART...REQUIRES A SERVANT’S TRAINING...REQUIRES THE ACTIONS OF A SERVANT. A SERVANT SERVES!*

It begins with **SALVATION**. Only as we **SUBMIT** to the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** can we have and develop a **SERVANT’S HEART!**

Only as we allow **HIS WORD, HIS HOLY SPIRIT, and HIS SERVANTS** to **TEACH** us can we gain the required training to become a **PROPER SERVANT OF THE LORD!**

And only as the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** lives **HIS LIFE** through our lives will our lives show the **ACTIONS** of a **PROPER SERVANT OF THE LORD!** Are you putting into practice what you know?