



# PHILIPPIANS

# Three Models to Mirror

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I. Like Paul, we must rejoice in sacrifice (2:17-18).

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- I. Like Paul, we must rejoice in sacrifice (2:17-18)
  - A. Paul sacrificed greatly with them (17a).

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From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

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in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

- *2 Corinthians 11:24-28*

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- I. Like Paul, we must rejoice in sacrifice (2:17-18)
  - A. Paul sacrificed greatly with them (17a).
  - B. Paul celebrated greatly with them (17b-18).

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I am filled with comfort;  
I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

*- 2 Corinthians 7:4*



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I will very gladly spend  
and be spent for you.

- *2 Corinthians 2:15*

# PHILIPPIANS

Now I rejoice in my sufferings  
for your sake.

- *Colossians 1:24*

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Count it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials.

- *James 1:2*

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To the degree that you share in the sufferings  
of Christ, keep on rejoicing,  
so that also at the revelation of His glory  
you may rejoice with exultation.

- 2 Peter 4:13

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  - A. Paul sacrificed greatly with them (17a).
  - B. Paul celebrated greatly with them (17b-18).
- II. Like Timothy, we must care with single-mindedness (19-24).

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- I. Like Paul, we must rejoice in sacrifice (2:17-18).
  - A. Paul sacrificed greatly with them (17a).
  - B. Paul celebrated greatly with them (17b-18).
- II. Like Timothy, we must care with single-mindedness (19-24).
- III. Like Epaphroditus, we must minister with selflessness (25-30).

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Soon after New Testament times, a group of Christians banded together in an association they called the Parabolani, which means “The Gamblers.” Taking Epaphroditus as their model, they visited prisoners and ministered to the sick, especially those with dangerous communicable diseases whom no one else would help. They boldly proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they went.

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When the city of Carthage, on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa, suffered a severe plague in A.D. 252, the pagan inhabitants were so frightened of contagion that they refused to touch the dead bodies even to bury them. [It was these Christians in the spirit of Epaphroditus who did] the arduous and dangerous task of ministering to the sick and dying and burning the thousands of corpses.

- *William Barclay*



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'Twas a sheep, not a lamb,  
That strayed away in the parable Jesus told.  
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray  
From the ninety-and-nine in the fold.

Out on the hillside, out in the cold,  
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought;  
And back to the flock, safe to the fold,  
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

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And why for the sheep should we earnestly long  
And as earnestly hope and pray?  
Because there is danger; if they go wrong,  
They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,  
Wherever the sheep may stray;  
When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long,  
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

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And so with the sheep we earnestly plead,  
For the sake of the lambs today;  
If the sheep are lost, what a terrible cost  
Some of the lambs will have to pay!

- *C. C. Miller*



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