

Scripture: God's Law of Love (Ex 20) – Phil. 2:19-30
Singing: 15:1-3 – 435:9 – 176:1-3 – 367:1, 4, 5 – 305:1-6

Let Us Study Philippians (21)

Intro: Example is the most powerful speech. They are among the best and liveliest of all commentaries on the power of the Gospel.

- A. Holy Spirit provided many *inspiring examples* of saints in the Bible
1. John 13:15: *I have given you an **example**, that ye should do as I have done*
 2. 1 Tim. 4:12: *be thou an **example** of the believers*
 3. James 5:10 *Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in name of the Lord, for an **example** of suffering affliction and of patience*
 4. 1 Peter 2:21: *For even hereunto ye are called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an **example** that we should follow his steps*
 5. Hebrews 11 is *God's gallery of examples of men/women of faith*

Three Godly Christians as Inspiring Examples: Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus

I. Paul's inspiring Christlikeness

- A. Paul even made himself an example: Phil. 3:17; Phil. 4:9
- B. What is inspiring about Paul's portrait?
1. his unwavering trust in Jesus (vs. 19; 24)
 2. his willingness to sacrifice his personal comforters (19, 28)
 3. his generous ungrudging praise of others (20-22) – (25, 29-30)
- C. How to use biography: *turn their good into prayer points.*

II. Timothy's outstanding example of volunteerism

- A. Timothy's biography presents him as *young but devoted disciples of Jesus*
1. Consult 2 Tim. 3:12-15; Acts 16:1-3; 17:14)
- B. How is Timothy *unlike everyone else?* (vs. 20)
1. Timothy stood 'head and shoulders' above other Christians in Rome (20)
2. Paul highlighted Timothy's excellence above all in two ways
- a. no one would be more *sincerely – genuinely* care for your state (vs. 20)
 - b. no one was willing to answer my request than Timothy (vs. 23; 2 Tim. 4:16)
 - c. Timothy reflected the mind of Jesus (Phil. 2:8ff)

C. How willing are we to answer the call for volunteers?

1. Consider Isaiah's answer to God's call: Is. 6:8-11

III. Epaphroditus's ministry mindset

A. All we learn of him is packed into 5 verses

1. He agreed to be sent to Rome as the Philippians 'messenger' (vs. 25)

a. his care-package wasn't just material things (4:18)

b. his care-package was himself as

- brother
- companion in labor
- fellow soldier

c. in his ministry he 'risked his life' (vs. 30, 26)

2. Epaphroditus was not a mere *passenger in a church boat*

3. His life stands as a testimony against *worldly risk-taking activities*

B. Epaphroditus' example became historically the start Christian ministry to sick and dying in a lost culture of Rome

Closing Call: *Kingdom workers needed – Who is willing?* (s. 6:8)