

Theme: Timothy and Epaphroditus were Christ-like examples, serving others even at great personal sacrifice and risk.

I. Intro – John and Abigail Adam’s Letters

- A. Read over last couple of years
- B. Really enjoyed – especially Abigail’s
- C. A lot of mundane stuff – but a lot of great stuff
- D. Always aware others might read
- E. Paul is dealing with some mundane stuff
- F. Epaphroditus, then Timothy, then him to come
- G. Yet he is doing more – examples of Christ-likeness

II. Timothy – Example Like Christ (v19-23)

- A. The Reasons for Timothy’s Visit to Philippi
 - 1. Give news on outcome of trial (v23)
 - 2. Cheer Paul at return with good report (v19)
- B. Timothy – An Example For the Philippians
 - 1. Timothy is like-minded/like-souled (v20)
 - a. “like him” - ἰσόψυχος - like/minded/like-souled
 - b. Phil 1:27 - μιᾷ ψυχῇ - “one man”
 - c. Phil 2:2 - σύμψυχοι - “one in spirit”;

2. Interested in things of Christ/Philippians (v20)

- a. “Your welfare” - your things/interests/affairs
- b. Others seek own things, not Christ’s things - v21
- c. Phi 2:4 – seek others things, not your own

3. Proven character/worth in service (v22)

- a. “proved himself” - δοκιμή - proven character
- b. Character through trial – Rom 5:3-4 – NASB
- c. Son w/ father – v22; 1 Cor 4:17 (show Paul)
- d. Served/slaved in Gospel – v22; Jesus – 2:7

III. Epaphroditus & His Example

A. Introducing Epaphroditus

- 1. “honored by Aphrodite” – common name
- 2. Messenger – apostle – of Philippians (v25)
- 3. Sent from Philippi with gift (4:18)
- 4. Probably also help Paul (2:25)
- 5. Bring back trial result??

B. The Reasons for Epaphroditus’ (Early) Return

- 1. Paul decided to do this – necessary – v25

- 2. He longs for the Philippians (v26)
- 3. He is distressed – they heard he was ill (v26)
- 4. Distressed – only in Mt 26:37//Mk 14:33
- C. Epaphroditus – An Example for the Philippians
 - 1. Brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier (25)
 - 2. Served – even when very sick
 - a. Ill, and almost died (v27)
 - b. God had mercy on him & Paul (v27) Mt 26:37
 - c. Unto death v30 (μέχρι θανάτου) – Jesus (2:8)
- D. Proper Response: Welcome with Joy, Honor (v29)

- 3. A life of service requires trials – will we serve?
- C. Do we see call to serve – self-sacrificially?
 - 1. Christ came and served – our salvation
 - 2. Timothy and Epaphroditus served sacrificially
 - 3. We are called to serve – working out salvation
- D. Communion and baptism – receiving Jesus' work

Timothy and Epaphroditus - Christ-like Examples for Us

Philippians 2:19-30
 March 16, 2008
 Communion; Water Baptism
 Numbers 6:24-26

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see call to be humble servants like Christ?
 - 1. Timothy and Epaphroditus were like Christ
 - 2. Timothy and Epaphroditus – fill call in 2:3-4
 - 3. We are called to walk the same way
- B. Do we see the call to serve through trials?
 - 1. Timothy had character proven through trial
 - 2. Epaphroditus pressed on – even “unto death”

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as **one man** for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27

2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being **one in spirit** and purpose. Philippians 2:2

4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, **character**; and **character**, hope. Romans 5:3-4

17 For this reason **I am sending to you Timothy, my son** whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1 Cor 4:17

7 but made himself nothing, **taking the very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:7

18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now **that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent**. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. Philippians 4:18

37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and **troubled**. Matthew 26:37 (Also see Mark 14:33)

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient **to death**-- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8