

Text Outline **Philippians 2:19-30**

- I. **19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon,**
 - A. **that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.**
 - B. **20 I have no one else like him,**
 - 1. **who will show genuine concern for your welfare.**
 - 2. **21 For everyone looks out for**
 - a) *their own interests,*
 - b) *not those of Jesus Christ.*
 - 3. **22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself,**
 - a) *because as a son with his father*
 - b) *he has served with me in the work of the gospel.*
 - C. **23 I hope, therefore, to send him**
 - 1. **as soon as I see how things go with me.**
 - 2. **24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.**
- II. **25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus,**
 - A. **my**
 - 1. **brother,**
 - 2. **co-worker**
 - 3. **and fellow soldier,**
 - B. **who**
 - 1. **is also your messenger,**
 - 2. **whom you sent to take care of my needs.**
 - C. **26 For he**
 - 1. **longs for all of you**
 - 2. **and is distressed because you heard he was ill.**
 - D. **27 Indeed**
 - 1. **he**
 - a) *was ill,*
 - b) *and almost died.*
 - 2. **But God had mercy**
 - a) *on him,*
 - b) *and not on him only but also on me,*
 - c) *to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.*
 - E. **28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that**
 - 1. **when you see him again you may be glad**
 - 2. **and I may have less anxiety.**
 - F. **29 So then, welcome him in the Lord**
 - 1. **with great joy,**
 - 2. **and honor people like him,**
 - 3. **30 because**

- a) he almost died for the work of Christ.*
- b) He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.*

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. COPYRIGHT© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Conceptual Outline

I. Role Model of Christ Mindedness - Timothy

A. Paul hopes to send Timothy to Philippi

B. Paul has no one else like Timothy

1. **genuine concern for the Philippians' welfare**
2. **looks out for Christ's interests**
3. **served with Paul like a son in the work of the gospel**

C. Sending of Timothy will be followed by Paul's own visit

II. Role Model of Christ Mindedness - Epaphroditus

A. Necessity of sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi

B. He is valued & loved by Paul as a

1. **brother**
2. **co-worker**
3. **fellow soldier**

C. He was a missionary sent by the Philippians

D. He is distressed that the Philippians worried about his illness

E. He was ill and almost died but God was merciful to him & to Paul

F. Paul is sending him back for the joy of the Philippians

G. Paul's instruction to honor people like Epaphroditus

1. **he almost died for Christ's work**
2. **he risked his life to help Paul & the Philippians**

Theme: Timothy & Epaphroditus are examples of people who mind the mind of Christ in humble servant hood.

Questions:

I. Review & Introduction

A. In the previous section Phil 2:1-18, we learned that Christian unity begins in thinking Christ's mind which translates into humble service & results in exaltation by God. In it, Paul listed a number of traits of Christ-like humility. Do you recall what they are?

B. Have you ever wonder how Christian unity look like in action? In the next portion from 2:19-30, Paul demonstrates it by showing how Timothy, Epaphroditus, Paul, & the Philippians humbled themselves for one another.

II. Let's look at Timothy as a role model. Read vs. 19-24.

A. When & why did Paul want to send Timothy to Philippi?

1. Why would news about the Philippians cheered Paul?
2. Why was there such urgency if Paul was confident that he would come soon?

B. What were some of the things that Timothy did to "prove" himself?

1. How did Timothy live out humility?
2. What would it take for someone to be like "a son serving with his father"?
3. In our society, would Timothy be recognized as an accomplished/proven person? Why or why not?

C. In this portion, how did Paul demonstrate Christ-mindedness? Let's complete a table to see how Paul & Timothy match the model of a Christ-minded believer.

Quality	Paul	Timothy
Humility		
Value Others		
Servant hood		
No selfish ambition		

No vain conceit		
Look for others' interests		
Obedient to death		

III. Let's look at Epaphroditus as a role model. Read vs. 25-30

A. Different roles of Epaphroditus

- 1. Why did the Philippians send Epaphroditus to Paul? What role would he be playing according to the senders?**
- 2. How did Paul see Epaphroditus' role? What made the difference in the perception of the roles?**

B. What made it "necessary to send back" Epaphroditus?

- 1. Why might Epaphroditus be distressed by the Philippians' knowledge of his illness?**
- 2. What was Paul's instruction to the Philippians in regard to Epaphroditus? Were there any reason why he wouldn't be welcomed?**
- 3. From Paul's instruction to the Philippians, how did Paul value Epaphroditus' service? What does it reflect about Paul's view on success?**

IV. Paul's role model. Read 2:17-30

A. From reading the passage, how would you describe Paul's emotions?

- 1. What are some of the words/phrases that offer a hint of his emotions?**
- 2. How did he handle his emotions?**
- 3. Which one of the ways Paul handle his emotions might be helpful for you to learn?**

B. Let's look at the table again to see how Paul & Epaphroditus demonstrate Christ-mindedness.

Quality	Paul	Epaphroditus
Humility		

Value Others		
Servant hood		
No selfish ambition		
No vain conceit		
Look for others' interests		
Obedient to death		

V. Though not very obvious the Philippians also demonstrated Christ-mindedness. How did they show it?

Quality	Philippians
Humility	
Value Others	
Servant hood	
No selfish ambition	
No vain conceit	
Look for others' interests	
Obedient to death	

VI. Having look at 4 different examples of Christ minded humility, let's consider how you might practice in different settings. Please list at least one box in each column to practice this month:

Quality	Church	Home	Work/School
---------	--------	------	-------------

Humility			
Value Others			
Servant hood			
No selfish ambition			
No vain conceit			
Look for others' interests			
Obedient to death			

Questions & Potential Answers:

I. Review & Introduction

A. In the previous section Phil 2:1-18, we learned that Christian unity begins in thinking Christ's mind which translates into humble service & results in exaltation by God. In it, Paul listed a number of traits of Christ-like humility. Do you recall what they are?

- *In humility, value others above yourselves*
- *Take the nature of a servant*
- *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit*
- *Not looking to your own interests but to the interests of the others*
- *Obedient to death*

B. Have you ever wonder how Christian unity look like in action? In the next portion from 2:19-30, Paul demonstrates it by showing how Timothy, Epaphroditus, Paul, & the Philippians humbled themselves for one another.

II. Let's look at Timothy as a role model. Read vs. 19-24.

A. When & why did Paul want to send Timothy to Philippi?

- *Soon to receive news about the Philippians. Probably also to help them with the different issues related to unity and false teaching & to tell them know about Paul's condition.*

1. Why would news about the Philippians cheered Paul?

- *Paul cared deeply about them. 1:22-25 & 2:17 talked about how important the Philippians are to Paul & how their faith gives meaning even to Paul's suffering.*

2. Why was there such urgency if Paul was confident that he would come soon?

- *He's probably anxious about their situation and wants to know how they're doing.*

B. How did Timothy live out humility?

- *Genuine concern for the Philippians' welfare*
- *Looks out for Jesus Christ's interests*

1. What were some of the things that Timothy did to "prove" himself?

- *He served as a son with Paul in the work of the gospel*

2. What would it take for someone to be like "a son serving with his father"?

- *Willing to honor, submit, obey, love, & care for the other*
- *Willing to work behind someone else as a "supporter" or "helper" not getting his own glory*

3. In our society, would Timothy be recognized as an accomplished/proven person? Why or why not?

- *No specific result/accomplishment was mentioned. No degree or number to show. He's just a servant/follower. Doesn't seem all that significant, probably dispensable in our standard.*

C. In this portion, how did Paul demonstrate Christ-mindedness? Let's complete a table to see how Paul & Timothy match the model of a Christ-minded believer.

Quality	Paul	Timothy
Humility	Cheered by the Philippians	Being sent by Paul's request
Value Others	Send out his best when he's in need	Paul's agenda as more important
Servant hood	Serve in the gospel	Being sent, serve with
No selfish ambition		Being 2nd
No vain conceit		
Look for others' interests	Thinking of the Philippians' welfare even in prison	
Obedient to death	Being in prison	Being sent for dangerous task

III. Let's look at Epaphroditus as a role model. Read vs. 25-30

A. Different roles of Epaphroditus

1. Why did the Philippians send Epaphroditus to Paul? What role would he be playing according to the senders?

- *He was sent as a messenger to take care of Paul's needs. Maybe as a mailman to deliver a letter/gift (4:18) & as a servant to care for a prisoner's daily needs.*

2. How did Paul see Epaphroditus' role? What made the difference in the perception of the roles?

- *Paul sees him as a brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier*

- *Value is not attributed to results, amount of work, talents, or accomplishments but as who he is & his dedication for the sake of the gospel. He is a brother in Christ. He was willing to be used and is so doing even risked his life.*

B. What made it "necessary to send back" Epaphroditus?

- *Epaphroditus longs for the Philippians*
- *Epaphroditus was distressed that the Philippians heard about his illness*
- *Epaphroditus was ill*
- *The Philippians might be glad to see Epaphroditus.*

1. Why might Epaphroditus be distressed by the Philippians' knowledge of his illness?

- *They might be worried about him.*
- *They might be upset that he did not accomplish the purpose of his mission, i.e., to take care of Paul.*

2. What was Paul's instruction to the Philippians in regard to Epaphroditus? Were there any reason why he wouldn't be welcomed?

- *To welcome & honor him*
- *There might be negative evaluation of him based on performance.*

3. From Paul's value Epaphroditus' service? What does it reflect about Paul's view on success?

- *Success/Value is based on our relationship with Christ and our dedication & obedience to him instead of accomplishment & work.*

IV. Paul's role model. Read 2:17-30

A. From reading the passage, how would you describe Paul's emotions?

1. What are some of the words/phrases that offer a hint of his emotions?

- *probably mixed with downcast, worried, sorrowful, confident, hopeful*
- *be cheered(19), hope (19, 23), spare me sorrow upon sorrow (27), less anxiety (28)*

2. How did he handle his emotions?

- *Hope in the Lord (19), Confident in the Lord (24)*
- *Look beyond the circumstance - "he was...but God" (27)*
- *Look beyond his own needs and care about others*
- *Appreciate other's contributions*

3. Which one of the ways Paul handle his emotions might be helpful for you to learn?

B. Let's look at the table again to see how Paul & Epaphroditus demonstrate Christ-mindedness.

Quality	Paul	Epaphroditus
Humility	Transparent about his emotions	Being sent by Philippians & Paul
Value Others	Values Epaphroditus	Paul's need as important
Servant hood	Writes the letter for a servant	Being sent to take care of others
No selfish ambition	No hidden agenda	
No vain conceit	Praise others	Nothing vain about being a servant
Look for others' interests	Sent back a helper for the sake of others	Recognizes Paul's need for care
Obedient to death	Pending death	Illness, almost died

V. Though not very obvious the Philippians also demonstrated Christ-mindedness. How did they show it?

Quality	Philippians
Humility	
Value Others	Values Paul
Servant hood	
No selfish ambition	
No vain conceit	
Look for others' interests	Sent gifts and people
Obedient to death	

VI. Having look at 4 different examples of Christ minded humility, let's consider how you might practice in different settings. Please list at least one box in each column to practice this month:

Quality	Church	Home	Work/School
Humility			
Value Others			
Servant hood			
No selfish ambition			
No vain conceit			
Look for others' interests			
Obedient to death			