

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 28

## Chapter 2, verses 19-30: A Companion in Labour and a Fellow Soldier

31 October 2022

### TIMOTHY

**19-21** All men naturally seek their own (they are self-serving), but Timothy is not like other men; he cares for others.

**Vs 22** Timothy served with Paul. He had a true servant's attitude like Jesus, who took upon him the form of a servant (Php 2:7).

**23-24** Paul is unable to Go to Philippi, so he will send Timothy in his stead.

### EPAPHRODITUS

**Vs 25** "**My brother**" (he is saved), he is a "**companion in labour**" and a "**fellow soldier**" (in the good fight of faith). He was a messenger to the Philippians and one who ministered to Paul.

**Vs 26** He longed after them (genuine care for others) and was "**full of heaviness**" because the Church had learned that he was sick, causing them to be troubled and concerned for his well-being.

**Vs 27** "**He was sick nigh unto death.**" Sickness is not an indication that God is judging you for not serving or for having sin in your life. This man was serving God, serving others, fighting the good fight of faith, laboring with other Christians, and yet he was sick and almost died.

- In these mortal bodies we will suffer sickness, trouble, sorrow, heartache, pain, and death.

"...**but God had MERCY on him.**" It was because of God's *mercy* that he didn't die. It wasn't because he was a sinner who got right with God. Our goodness has no bearing on our health and freedom from suffering. Only by God's mercy are we alive and not in Hell.

"...**mercy...on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.**" Sometimes God spares your loved ones from death to show mercy to you.

**Vs 28** Paul, concerned for his friend Epaphroditus, sent him on a journey reluctantly, not certain that he was strong enough for the trip. But he sent him to be a cause of rejoicing for his friends at Philippi. This was a sacrifice for Paul because he was giving up a man who was a great help and comfort to himself.

**Vs 29** "**Receive him... and hold such in reputation.**" It is not good to give honor to men who are not worthy of it (Prov. 26:1, 8; Psa 12:8), but we are instructed to render honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7, 1 Timothy 5:1, 17).

- It is good and right to show respect for those who have a reputation for sacrificial living (living for others), who are decent, God-fearing preachers of the gospel, teachers of God's truth, who stand between the nation and the wrath of God and show the way of righteousness.
- Christians today are guilty of showing a lack of respect to those who have ministered to them.
  - A characteristic of the ungodly is that they despise being governed and speak evil of dignities (2 Pet 2:10, Jude 8).

**Vs 30** Epaphroditus put his life in danger while doing his work AND the work of the brethren who would NOT work.

- Most churches have a few people that do most of the work, gladly serving Jesus and the brethren.