

**SERVANTS OF THE LORD
PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30**

Introduction

If you've been in Church any amount of time, you've probably come across some of the Lord's choicest servants who have made a great impact upon a Church that you were a part of, the lives of others, and even your own life.

Even as I say those words, faces of certain individuals in each Church I've been associated with come to mind! I've been blessed to have some special people touch and influence my own life in great ways through their service for the Lord!

I've been around some special folks who displayed the presence of God in their lives and were a great blessing to those whose lives they touched.

I'm not just talking about preachers or even teachers, but about some folks who were some of the Lord's choicest servants even though they may not have been in the limelight.

In our text this morning we're going to see two special servants of the Lord who were of tremendous help to the Apostle Paul and served the Lord Jesus Christ faithfully—Timothy (or Timotheus) and Epaphroditus.

READ THE TEXT.

It is believed that Paul probably met Timothy on his first missionary journey. Regardless of when it was, Paul always considered the young Timothy as his own "*dearly beloved son*" in the faith.

No doubt the Apostle Paul had a great impact upon this young man as he enlisted young Timothy to be one of his fellow laborers in Acts 16 . Paul took him under his wing and disciplined him.

Under the leadership of the Apostle Paul, Timothy was molded into a great servant of the Lord and was very beneficial to the ministry of Christ and became a great helper to Paul, especially in his last days of ministry.

So, what ingredients make for a great servant of the Lord?

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I. BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S HEART. (2:19-24)

It is obvious that Paul was concerned about the Church at Philippi. He wanted to send someone to both convey his concern and to accurately report back to him on the welfare of the Church.

There were certainly a great number of believers in Rome. We know Paul sent greetings to 26 of them by name in the last chapter of his book to the Romans.

Yet it appears that none of them were available to make this trip. They were so engrossed in themselves and their own lives that they had no time for this important work of the Lord. (Vs 21)

Sadly, this is one of the great and growing tragedies in most Churches today also. It seems as though more and more we see that a great majority of believers' time, energy and concern are diverted away from the things should matter the most to selfish, temporal interests.

Even though Paul had no one else he could depend on, he knew that Timothy cared for people and was concerned about their needs. And Paul's desire was to send Timothy to do what the Apostle Paul could not do himself.

Timothy had a natural concern for the welfare of others because he had a servant's heart. Timothy was not involved in promoting his own interests, rather, he was interested only in the spiritual condition of God's people. How did this concern develop? Well, that brings us to the next point.

II. BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S TRAINING.

The kind of heart that Timothy had was not a natural trait! By nature we are prone to be selfish and look out for number one!

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Timothy became what he was because of the diligent efforts of other of choice servants of the Lord!

- A. There Was The Training Under A Faithful Grandmother And Mother. (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15)**
- B. There Was The Training Under The Apostle Paul. (2 Timothy 1:13; 2:1-2; 3:10, 14)**
- C. There Was The Training Under Others In The Church At Lystra. (Acts 14:6-7, 21-22; 16:1-2)**

All of this training was based in Scripture!

BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S HEART...REQUIRES A SERVANT'S TRAINING...

III. BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES THE ACTIONS OF A SERVANT. (2:25-30)

Just to call one a servant of the Lord does not make them a servant of the Lord!

To be a true servant of the Lord requires the actions of a servant!
Let's look at Paul's mention of another servant of the Lord—
Epaphroditus.

Paul was a “Hebrew of the Hebrews”—Full blooded Jew.
Timothy was Part Jew and Part Gentile.
Epaphroditus was believed to be a full Gentile whose name means “charming.” There is something “charming” about one who lives his faith! Amen!

Epaphroditus was the member of the Philippian Church who risked both his life and health to deliver their missionary offering to Paul in Rome. (4:18)

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- A. Note That He Was A Balanced Christian! (Vs 25)**
Notice Paul's three-fold description of Epaphroditus.
 - 1. “*brother*” He was saved by believing the Gospel.
 - 2. “*companion in labor*” He was serving for the furtherance of God.
 - 3. “*fellowsoldier*” He was a soldier defending the faith of the Gospel.
- B. Note That He Was A Burdened Christian! (Vs 25-27, 30)**
He, like Timothy showed his concern by his actions!
 - 1. He was burdened about Paul. (Vs 25, 30)**
Volunteering to deliver the Church's love gift.
He wasn't content just giving an offering.
He gave himself to help carry the offering.
 - 2. He was burdened about his Church in Philippi. (Vs 26-27)**
Because they were worried about him.
- C. Note That He Was A Beloved Christian! (Vs 28-30)**
What a tragedy it is to go through life and not be a blessing to anyone!

Epaphroditus was not that way! He was a blessing to Paul and he was a blessing to his Church!

Paul admonishes the Church at Philippi to honor him because of his sacrifice and service!

Now we know that Christ is to get ALL the glory from whatever is accomplished through us. But, there is nothing wrong with honoring those who glorify Christ with their life and service!

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1 Thessalonians 5:12-13—“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.”

Epaphroditus had sacrificed himself with no thought of reward, but Paul encouraged the Church to honor him.

Conclusion

We've seen here in Philippians three great servants of the Lord—The Apostle Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus. All three of these men were cut out of the same Pattern that we are to follow—The Pattern of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Their lives were influenced by others who came before them so that they became a great influence in the lives of even more!

Do you have what it takes to be such an influential servant yourself?

BEING A SERVANT OF THE LORD REQUIRES A SERVANT'S HEART...REQUIRES A SERVANT'S TRAINING...REQUIRES THE ACTIONS OF A SERVANT.

It begins with Salvation. Only as we submit to the Lord Jesus Christ can we have and develop a servant's heart!

Only as we allow His Word, His Holy Spirit, and His servants to teach us can we gain the required training to become a proper servant of the Lord!

And only as the Lord Jesus Christ lives His life through our lives will our lives show the actions of a proper servant of the Lord!