**Philippians 2: 19 – 30**

**Focal Truth: God blesses the church with those who minister to the church**

**Observations:**

1. **Paul’s concern about the spiritual condition of the church – 19**
2. The news of their condition would be a source of encouragement to him - 19
3. **Paul’s spiritual son in the ministry - Timothy – 20 – 24**
4. Acts 16:1 – Paul came to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.
5. 1 Cor. 4:17 – I have sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church
6. Phil. 1:1 – Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus
7. 1 Thess. 3:2 – we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith
8. 1 Tim. 1:2 – To Timothy, my true child in the faith
9. 1 Tim. 1:18 – 19 - This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith
10. 1 Tim. 6:12 – fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses
11. 1 Tim. 6:20 – O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”
12. **Timothy’s character in the work of the gospel – 20 -24**
13. Like – minded with Paul – isoppsychos = equal in soul
14. Genuine – gnesisos = sincere
15. Committed to the interests of Christ not personal interests

The others at the church in Rome sought their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus – 2:21

1. Known for proven character – dokime = tried character
2. Served faithfully with Paul in the gospel like a son
3. **Paul’s fellow worker in the gospel – Epaphroditus – 25 – 27**
4. Brother in Christ – adelphos
5. Coworker with Paul – synergos = companion in work
6. Fellow soldier – systratiotes = an associate in labors and conflicts
7. Member & messenger to the church – apostolon = delegate, one sent with orders
8. Encourager – leitourgos = public minister
9. Suffered for the gospel – 27
10. **Paul’s concern for Epaphroditus reunion with the church – 28 – 30**
11. The church will rejoice to see Epaphroditus – 28
12. The church should honor Epaphroditus

Welcome him in the Lord

Welcome him with joy

Honor him because of his sacrifice for the cause of Christ

Honor him for his risks in the ministering to Paul

1 Tim. 5:17 – the elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching

**Things to Remember**

1. Two are better than one in ministry to the church
2. Every mature believer should have a Timothy
3. The church should produce spiritual fathers & mothers to train the next generation of Timothy’s
4. The church must be a disciple making church – 2 Tim. 2:2, Matt. 28:19
5. The Church thrives as God’s people work together for the gospel

Rom 16:3 – Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus

Rom 16:9 – Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ

2 Cor. 8:23 – as for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you

Phil 4:3 – indeed true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers whose name are in the book of life

Philemon 1:24 – as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers

3 John 1:8 – therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth

**Daily Use**

1. Be available to train a Timothy
2. Submit to spiritual discipleship
3. Honor those who labor in leading and discipling the church
4. Ask God to bring a new believer into your life to train for the work of the gospel