

Title ideas:
The Joy of Knowing Christ's Friends!
The Joy of Knowing Christ's Servants!

Philippians 2:19-30 - The Joy of Knowing Christ's Servants!

Scriptures:
Philippians 1:27 - Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...

1 Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor...

Proverbs 3:5-6 -
Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

2 Corinthians 11:28-29 - besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to

1679 - hope for, an attitude of looking forward to, usually, a trusting, confident hope

you shortly, that I also may be encouraged

2174 - to be encouraged v. — to be inspired with confidence; be given hope or courage.

when I know your state.

1097 -

3588/4012 - ?? - condition

Notes:
Paul refers to Timothy and Epaphroditus here to cap off what he started in (Phil. 1:27). These are two men whose lives are 'worthy of the gospel'.

Paul was imprisoned in Rome and not able to visit the Philippians. And so, he does the next best thing – Paul sends Timothy.

'trust in the Lord...' = hope in the Lord. Hope is a better translation of the word 'trust', but because Paul trusted in the Lord, he could hope for His gracious acts in Paul's life.

Paul did not presume upon God's will. It was Paul's will that Timothy would go to Philippi. Paul didn't know what God's will was in this matter. Sometimes we know what God's will is because His Word states it clearly (1 Thess. 4:3). This also applies to all of God's commands. Sometimes we believe we know God's will because we believe we have heard His voice. Most frequently, we don't know God's specific will in a matter, like whether or not God wants Timothy to go to Philippi. Paul wanted to send Timothy to Philippi and trusted Christ to make it happen if it was God's will. When God's will is not clear, put your trust in Christ and then do what your heart desires (Prov. 3:5-6).

Past of trusting in the Lord Jesus means being willing to accept when God's will is not your desire. Paul desired to send Timothy to Philippi, but was willing to accept God not making a way for that to happen.

Paul was writing this letter to encourage the Philippians to live worthy of the gospel of Christ. He was willing to send Timothy on the long journey Philippi and back so that he could get news about how they were doing.

The letter to the Philippians has the theme of joy, but it doesn't change the reality that Paul cares about and is concerned for the state of the church (2 Cor. 11:28-29). Paul had a pastor's heart. He was connected to the churches and felt what they felt.

Scriptures:

²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who

2473 – like-souled -
similarly minded,
pertaining to like
soul, heart, or mind

will sincerely care for your state.

1104 - genuinely

3309 - be anxious
about, worry,
have anxiety, be
concerned

Notes:

Timothy wouldn't just deliver the letter Paul wrote to them. Timothy would serve them in the same way that Paul would.

Paul is displaying the selflessness he calls them to practice. Paul has no one else with like Timothy, and yet he is willing to send Timothy on the 800-mile journey to minister to the Philippians.

"Timothy...was free enough from his own self-interests to devote himself to the welfare of others." (Hughes, 2013) page 111

Caring Heart

Scriptures:

Philippians 2:3-4 - Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are

2212 – desire,
demand, try to
obtain

of Christ Jesus.

Notes:

There were a lot of Christians in Rome. But it seems that the Roman church was more interested in itself than it was for others.

Paul had earlier exhorted them to esteem others better than themselves and to look out for other's interests (Phil. 2:3-4).

Scriptures:
Philippians 2:7 - ...but made
Himself of no reputation,
taking the form of a
bondservant...

22 But **you** know ^{TIM} his proven character, that as a

1097 – familiar
with

1382 – value,
worth

Notes:
Timothy had proven what kind of
man he was in the way that he
served Paul. Many in our culture
what to tell us what their character
is, and they expect us to believe
what they say. I have learned that
words are cheap, and seldom can
you take someone at their word
when they tell you how spiritual
they are.

[↗]son with **his** [↗]father ^{TIM}he served with **me** in the

1398 -

Timothy was an example of what
Paul calls all believers to be – like
Christ (Phil. 2:7).

Excellent Character

[↗]gospel.

2098 – the good
news

Scriptures:

23 Therefore **I** [⚓]hope to send him at once, as soon

Notes:

as **I** see how it goes with **me**.

Scriptures:

24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also

come shortly.

Notes:

'I trust in the Lord...' – 2nd time – see v19.

For reasons that Paul does not elaborate upon he believed that he would be released from prison.

The Bible doesn't tell us that Paul was released from prison but we do know that he ended up in prison a second time (2 Tim.).

The Bible also doesn't tell us whether Paul visited Philippi again, but knowing his character we sense that he probably did, if the Lord allowed him to.

Scriptures:
Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

25 Yet ^I considered it necessary to send to you

2233 - ??

316 -

^{EP} Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and

80 -

4904 -

fellow soldier, but your messenger and

4961 – fellow-struggler

652 – apostle - apostle, a special messenger of Jesus Christ, a restricted group, the exact number variously reckoned

^{EP} the one who ministered to my need;

3011 - servant, a minister, one who cares for another, implying special duties

Notes:

Epaphroditus made the 800-mile journey from Philippi to where Paul was imprisoned in Rome to bring Paul a gift of support from the Philippians.

'brother' – same spiritual heritage.

'fellow worker' – Even though Paul had the role of an apostle, he did not regard that as more important than what Epaphroditus had been called to do.

'fellow soldier' – Paul is saying that Epaphroditus had fought shoulder-to-shoulder with him in the spiritual battle of advancing the gospel (Eph. 6:12).

'your messenger' – 'messenger' is literally 'apostle'.

'the one who ministered' –

It is believed that Epaphroditus was the one who carried this letter to the Philippians.

Scriptures:

Mark 14:33-34 - And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. 34 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

26 since he was longing for you all, and

1971 – deeply
desire

Notes:

Epaphroditus was distressed because he had heard that news of his illness distressed the people back home.

'distressed' – only other use of this word is of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33).

was distressed because you had heard that

85 – upset,
troubled,

he was sick.

770 -

Scriptures:

27 For indeed he was ~~sick~~ ^{EP} almost unto death; but

2288 -

Notes:
It is possible that God healed Epaphroditus miraculously.

God [△] had [∨] mercy ^{EP} on him, and not only on him but ^{EP}

1653 -

on **me** also, lest **I** should have sorrow upon

3077 -

sorrow.

3077 -

Scriptures:

28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that

4708 -

Notes:

when you see him again you may rejoice, and I

may be less sorrowful.

Scriptures:

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all

4327 -

Notes:

Epaphroditus was a man we would know nothing about if it weren't for Paul writing about him in this letter. He would have served, fought, and ministered and then disappeared into history. Paul says these kinds of men should be honored within the church.

gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

5479 - 'joy'

1784 - honored

"We must understand that to serve in some unnoticed, unrecognized place in the Body of Christ is as much the work of Christ as is public ministry." (Hughes, 2013) page 118

Scriptures:

30 because for the work of Christ he came close to

Notes:
'lacking in your service' – the Philippians had committed to helping Paul in his ministry to take the gospel where the name of Christ was not known.

Epaphroditus had come to Rome with a gift for Paul and to serve him by ministering to his needs while he was under arrest. He was there on behalf of the Philippians.

death, not regarding his life, to supply what

3851 – risk,
expose one's life
to danger

378 – make
complete

was lacking in your service toward me.

5303 -

3009 -

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