



# Philippians

Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!

**The Joy of Knowing Christ's Servants!**

**Philippians 2:19-30**

Message #9 of 16 – S995

**Sermon given on May 8, 2022**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Joy of Knowing Christ's Servants!

## *Philippians 2:19-30*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Philippians 2**
- Today, we continue our series through the book of **Philippians – Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!**
- As of this year I have been a pastor for twenty years
- I started to sense God's call upon my life fairly early on in my faith
- I sensed that I had been created to serve God
- In the beginning I didn't know what that meant or what to do
- Last week I said that if you can't say yes to God, say yes to His church
- I didn't know what God wanted to me to do so did what I could
- And God used other servants in the church to help me discover what God was calling me to
- One of the things that I discovered is that serving God, while sometimes it is hard, it is always good, fulfilling, and satisfying
- Serving God has included times of great struggles, but those struggles are eclipsed by the incredible joys of being a part of God's work on this earth – glorifying Him, blessing others, growing faith
- Now, one of the things that brings me great joy is helping others discover how God is calling them to serve so that they can experience that joy of glorifying God
- The apostle Paul loved to be around people who loved God and served Him in whatever way they could
- Many of his letters include names of people who were important to Him
- He is going to talk about two people in this text who were important to him and he wanted to make sure the Philippians understood that
- Those who are truly God's servants don't do it to be noticed
- But those who are served by those servants ought to notice
- Let's pray and then look at a few verses
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Joy of Knowing Christ's Servants!**

- Paul, in the last text talked about working out their salvation
- God loves us and saves us exactly as we are, but then He begins working in us to change us to be more like His Son Jesus
- And then tells them what God's purpose is in that work **Philippians 2:15-16**

...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

- One of the things that helps us to do that are examples of people who are doing it
- Paul is going to give us two – the first is Timothy
- **Philippians 2:19**
- Paul was awaiting trial and he didn't know what the outcome would be – prison, exile, death
- In verse 24 Paul will express his hope of coming to see them
- But in the meantime he was hoping to send Timothy
- Notice the phrase, 'I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy'
- 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 Thessalonians 4:3**

**For this is the will of God, your sanctification...**

- 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 fully in Christ **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**

- Paul wants to send Timothy so that Paul can find out how the Philippians are doing
- He then tells us why he is sending Timothy
- **Philippians 2:20-22**
- Timothy was a young man who had come to faith through Paul's ministry
- Timothy was 'like-minded' = 'like-souled'
- Timothy had the same desire for the gospel that Paul did
- Timothy cared about the Philippians in the same way that Paul did
- Timothy was unique – of all the Christians in Rome, only Timothy could be trusted put the interests of the Philippians over his own
- Only Timothy would represent Christ in the way Paul would
- Timothy was Paul's living example to the Philippians of **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.**

- It was a big deal – it was an eight-hundred-mile trip each way – it could take months
- And all that time Paul would be without Timothy's help and support
- That is challenging to me – If I was there, would Paul consider sending me? Would he send you?
- Paul wanted to go himself – but trusted Timothy to go in his place
- **Philippians 2:23-24**
- 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.
- Paul hoped to go but trusted the Lord enough to wait and see what the Lord was going to do

- One of the things that people struggle with in life is that they don't get what they hope for – or things don't go the way they hope they will
- This is common to all of humanity
- People in the world place their trust in worldly things – money, strength, power, influence, knowledge, and maybe even religion to get them what they are hoping for
- That is not what a Christian should do – we put our trust in the Lord Jesus – in His grace, mercy, power, sovereignty, providence, and most especially in His love
- And that means that we might not get what we hope for but because we have put trust in the Lord Jesus, we know that what does come is good, is right, is holy
- Paul will say in chapter 4 that he had learned to be content in all things
- Because of his trust in the Lord Jesus he was okay with whatever the Lord Jesus allowed into his life
- Paul hoped to go to Philippi, but in the meantime he hoped to send Timothy as soon as he knew what was going to happen to him
- But even before that, he would send someone else
- **Philippians 2:25-30**
- 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.
- It is believed that Epaphroditus was the one who carried this letter back to the Philippians.
- Epaphroditus was distressed because he had heard that news of his illness distressed the people back home.
- His family and friends back home were worried about him and this distressed him – he wanted to set their minds at ease
- 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. **R.**

**Kent Hughes**

**“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.”**

- 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.
- Paul is doing what he had encouraged the Philippians to do

### **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.**

- Sending Timothy and Epaphroditus to Philippi was going to make Paul’s life harder
- It would have been better for Paul to keep both of them with him, but it would be better for the Philippians if they went
- I love being the pastor of this church
- And one of the reasons why I love it is because of the people God allows me to serve alongside
- Some of them may not always be easy to serve alongside, but because I love God, I can love them because He has given me His love for them, even when they are weird
- Some of them challenge me to be a better man, husband, father, or pastor, and while I might not always like how they do, I love that they love me enough to do it
- There is no way for me to know what God is saying to you about serving Him
- What I can tell you is that God wants to talk to you about it
- Finding a way to serve God is the pathway to some pretty radical things – if you have questions, ask anyone here is serving
- I will close with a verse and then Pastor Randy will lead us in

### **Communion Mark 10:42-25**

**But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. <sup>44</sup> And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

- **Pray - Communion**