

Timothy (vv. 19-24)

VERSE 19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition (Ελπίζω δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Τιμόθεον ταχέως πέμψαι ὑμῖν, ἵνα καὶ γὰρ εὐψυχῶ γνοῦς τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν [*pres.act.ind.1s. elpizo hope, expect + conj de but + prep en + loc.m.s. kurios + loc.m.s. Christos + noun acc.m.s. Timothy + adv tacheos soon + aor.act.infin. pempo send + pro.dat.p. su + conj hina + adv kago I also + pres.act.ind.1s. euphucheo be encouraged, cheered; 1x + pres.act.part.nom.m.s. ginosko know; learn + d.a.acc.nt.p. “condition” + prep peri concerning + pro.gen.p. su*]).

VERSE 20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare (οὐδένα γὰρ ἔχω ἰσόψυχον, ὅστις γνησίως τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν μεριμνήσει [*adj.acc.m.s. oudies no one + conj gar for + pres.act.ind.1s. echo have + adj.acc.m.s. iouphuchos likeminded + pro.nom.m.s. hostis who + adv gnesios genuinely; 1x + d.a.acc.nt.p. ta ‘the things’ + prep peri concerning + pro.gen.m.p. su + fut.act.ind.3s. merimnao care for; “will...be concerned”*]).

VERSE 21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus (οἱ πάντες γὰρ τὰ ἑαυτῶν ζητοῦσιν, οὐ τὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ [*d.a.nom.m.p. hoi “they” + adj.nom.m.p. pas all + conj gar + d.a.acc.nt.p. ta “interests” + pro.gen.m.p. heautou “their own” + pres.act.ind.3p. zeteo seek + neg ou + d.a.acc.nt.p. ta “those” + gen.m.s. Jesus + gen.m.s. Christ*]).

VERSE 22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father (τὴν δὲ δοκιμὴν αὐτοῦ γινώσκετε, ὅτι ὡς πατρὶ τέκνον σὺν ἐμοὶ ἐδούλευσεν εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον [*d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. dokime character, worth, proof, evidence + pro.gen.m.s. autos his + pres.act.ind.2p. ginosko know + conj hoti + conj hos like + noun dat.m.s. pater father + noun nom.nt.s. teknon child + prep sun + pro.instr.s. ego me + aor.act.ind.3s. douleuo serve + prep eis + d.a.w/noun acc.nt.s. euagnleion gospel*]).

VERSE 23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me (τοῦτον μὲν οὖν ἐλπίζω πέμψαι ὡς ἂν ἀφίδω τὰ περὶ ἐμὲ ἐξαυτῆς· [*pro.acc.m.s. houtos + part men + conj sun therefore + pres.act.ind.1s. elpizo hope + aor.act.infin. pempo send + conj hos as + part an indicating contingency + aor.act.ind.1s. aphorao fix one's eyes on; "I see" + d.a.acc.nt.p. ta "things" + prep peri concerning + pro.acc.s. ego + adv exautes immediately*]);

VERSE 24 and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly (πέποιθα δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ ὅτι καὶ αὐτὸς ταχέως ἐλεύσομαι [*pf.act.ind.1s. peitho "trust" + conj + prep en + loc.m.s. kurios + conj hoti + conj kai also + pro.nom.m.s. autos him + adv acheos "shortly" + fut.dep.ind.1s. erchomai come*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 19-24

1. Vv. 19-30 is a continuation of Paul's status report of chapter 1 vv. 12-26.
2. The primary purpose of this section was to provide the Philippians with information regarding Paul's efforts on their behalf specifically what he could do to encourage them in the interim before he himself could pay them a visit.
3. The two parallel sections here deal first with Timothy (vv. 19-24) and secondly with Epaphroditus (vv. 25-30).
4. With regard to Timothy, Paul plans to dispatch him soon.
5. In that regard, Paul focuses on Timothy's trustworthiness, namely his devotion to and like-mindedness' with the apostle Paul.
6. In regards to Epaphroditus, Paul emphasizes Epaphroditus's relationship to the Philippians.

7. The sending of Epaphroditus, in contrast to Timothy, is that Paul describes it as something “necessary” (v. 25).
8. “But” in v. 19 could be rendered simply “Now.”
9. These verse raise the question whether the Philippians had certain expectations with regard to an apostolic visit.
10. Certainly they hoped to see Paul personally, but we may safely assume that they were not counting on it for the immediate future.
11. Short of that, they may well have expected a visit from Timothy, whose ministry to the Philippians was closely linked with Paul’s.
12. It is reasonable-though speculative-to suppose that their decision to part with Epaphroditus, who could stay with the apostle and minister to his needs, was to free Timothy, for such a visit.
13. When Paul sent an emissary it was that the church in question could be encouraged and informed with regard to Paul’s situation.
14. Here in v. 19b, Paul expresses the purpose in reverse: “so that I also may be comforted when I learn of your condition.”
15. This statement takes for granted that the Philippians’ benefit was the main purpose of the visit.
16. It may well be that the Philippians themselves had made the request that Timothy be sent to them.
17. This request may well be the reason this letter was written at all.
18. If this reconstruction has any merit at all, Paul’s commendation of Timothy takes on added significance.
19. Might some think that he was hesitant to send Timothy because he no longer trusted him?
20. Also, there was the question if Timothy had lost interest in them—note the emphasis on the fact that Timothy “will genuinely be concerned for your welfare” (v. 20).
21. Sending Timothy was a sacrifice for Paul as he was connected to him like no other and trusted him like no other.
22. This explains why Paul wanted to send him and no one else.
23. Paul took this opportunity to make some remarkable comments about Timothy.
24. Of all the individuals who were around Paul and served on his missionary team, Timothy was the outstanding exemplar of a “kindred spirit” (hapax adj. *isophuchos* sharing the same sentiments).
25. He fully shared Paul’s love for and concern for the Philippians as if they were of one mind/soul.
26. Paul’s circumstances described in vv. 12-17 remind us of how difficult his situation was facing a capital offense charge.
27. In that passage Paul emphasis on the positive effects of his imprisonment should not keep us from recognizing the serious conflict and grievous adversity he was experiencing (cf. 1:29-30).
28. We can surmise that Paul’s situation called for support that made a confidant like Timothy of such value.
29. Paul witnessed others fade away when things looked dire and he mentions them as “those who seek their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.”

30. During his final and second Roman imprisonment, he felt abandoned and in his final and second letter to Timothy (who was far away in Ephesus) summoned him to visit him one last time (2 Tim. 4:2 “Make every effort to come to me soon.”; cp. 1Tim. 1:2; 2Tim. 1:2).
31. The Philippians were witnesses to Timothy’s “proven worth” (v. 23); nothing has changed Paul tells them.
32. They witnessed in Paul and Timothy the very best example of “a child *serv*ing his father.”
33. Timothy first joined up with Paul in Acts 16:1 where his parentage and spiritual status is given (cf. vv. 2-12)
34. Other references to Timothy in Acts include: 17:14, 15; 18:6; 19:22; 20:4.
35. He is included in the salutations of Philippians (1:1); 2 Cor. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1Thess. 1:1 (also 3:2, 6); 2Thess. 1:1 (cf. 6:20); Phm. 1:1.
36. Other mentions include: Rom. 16:21; 1Cor. 16:10 and Heb. 13:23.
37. In v. 23 Paul informs the church that he will dispatch Timothy the moment he “sees how things *go* with me.”
38. So that the Philippians do not draw the wrong conclusion from his words, as though Paul was in imminent danger, he reassures them as he had done earlier (1:21-26), be expressing strongly (“I am confident in the Lord”) he expectation of a visit to the Philippians in the near future (v. 23).

Epaphroditus (vv. 25-30)

VERSE 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to

my need (Ἀναγκαῖον δὲ ἠγησάμην Ἐπαφρόδιτον τὸν ἀδελφὸν καὶ συνεργὸν καὶ συστρατιώτην μου, ὑμῶν δὲ ἀπόστολον καὶ λειτουργὸν τῆς χρείας μου, πέμψαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς [adj.nom.nt.s. *anagkaios* necessary + conj *de* + aor.dep.ind.1s. *hegeomai* consider, think + noun acc.m.s. *Epaphroditus* + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. *adelphos* brother + conj *kai* + adj.acc.m.s. *suergos* fellow-worker + conj *kai* + noun acc.m.s. *sustratiotes* fellow-soldier + pro.gen.m.s. *ego* “my” + pro.gen.m.p. *su* “your” + conj *de* + noun acc.m.s. *apostolos* “messenger” + conj *kai* + noun acc.m.s. *leitourgos* minister + d.a.w/noun gen.f.s. *chreia* need + pro.gen.m.s. *ego* “my” + aor.act.infin. *pempo* send + prep *pros to* + pro.acc.m.p. *su*]);

VERSE 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick (ἐπειδὴ ἐπιποθῶν ἦν πάντας ὑμᾶς καὶ ἀδημονῶν, διότι ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἡσθένησεν [conj. *epeidi* since, because + pres.act.part.nom.m.s. *epipotheo* long for + impf.act.ind.3s. *eimi* “was” + adj.acc.m.p. *pas* all + pro.acc.p. *su* + prep *kata* + pres.act.art.nom.m.s. *ademoneo* be distressed, troubled + conj *dioti* because + aor.act.ind.2p. *akouo* hear + conj *hoti* that + aor.act.ind.3s. *astheneo* be sick]).

VERSE 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him (καὶ γὰρ ἡσθένησεν παραπλήσιον θανάτῳ· ἀλλὰ ὁ θεὸς ἠλέησεν αὐτόν, [conj *kai* “indeed” + conj *gar* + aor.act.ind.3s. *astheneo* be sick + adv *paraplerion* almost; “to the point” + noun *dat.m.s. thantos* death], and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow [ἀλλὰ ὁ θεὸς ἠλέησεν αὐτόν, οὐκ αὐτὸν δὲ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐμέ, ἵνα μὴ λύπην ἐπὶ λύπην σχῶ [conj *alla* but + d.a.w/noun *nom.m.s. theos* + aor.act.ind.3s. *eleao* show mercy + pro.acc.m.s. *autos* + neg *ouk* + pro.acc.m.s. *autos* + conj *de* but + adj.acc.m.s. *monos* only + conj *alla* + conj *kai* also + pro.acc.s. *ego* “me” + conj *hina* + neg *me* + noun *acc.f.s. lupe* sorrow + prep *epi* upon + noun *acc.f.s. lupe* + aor.act.subj.1s. *echo* have]).

VERSE 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you (σπουδαιότερως οὖν ἔπεμψα αὐτόν, ἵνα ἰδόντες αὐτόν πάλιν χαρῆτε καὶ γὰρ ἀλυπότερος ὦ [adv *spoudaios* eagerly + conj *sun* therefore + aor.act.ind.1s. *pempo* send + pro.acc.m.s. *autos* + conj *hina* that + aor.act.part.nom.m.p. *eidōs* see + pro.acc.m.s. *autos* + adv *palin* again + aor.pass.subj.2p. *chairo* rejoice + conj *kago* I also + adj.nom.m.s. *alupoteros* relieve of anxiety; “less concerned” + pres.act.subj.1s. *eimi* “I may be”]).

VERSE 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high

regard (προσδέχεσθε οὖν αὐτὸν ἐν κυρίῳ μετὰ πάσης χαρᾶς καὶ τοὺς τοιούτους ἐντίμους ἔχετε [pres.dep.imper.2p. *prosdechomai* welcome + conj *sun* therefore + pro.acc.m.s. *autos* + prep *en* + noun loc.m.s. *kurios* + prep *meta* with + adj.gen.f.s. *pas* + noun gen.f.s. *chara* joy + conj *kai* + d.a.w/pro.acc.m.p. *toioutos* of such a kind + adj.acc.m.p. *entimos* valuable; “in high regard” + pres.act.imper.2p. *echo* have, hold]);

VERSE 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life

to complete what was deficient in your service to me (ὅτι διὰ τὸ ἔργον Χριστοῦ μέχρι θανάτου ἤγγισεν παραβολευσάμενος τῇ ψυχῇ, ἵνα ἀναπληρώσῃ τὸ ὑμῶν ὑστέρημα τῆς πρὸς με λειτουργίας [conj *hoti* because + prep *dia* through; because, on account of + d.a.w/noun acc.nt.s *ergon* work + noun gen.m.s. *Christ* + prep *mechri* until; “close” + noun gen.m.s. *thanatos* death + aor.act.ind.3s. *engizo* approach, come near to; “he came” + aor.dep.part.nom.m.s. *paraboleuomai* risk + d.a.w/noun dat.f.s. *psuche* soul; life + conj *hina* + aor.act.subj.3s. *anapleroo* complete + d.a.w/noun acc.nt.s. *husterema* what is lacking/deficient + pro.gen.m.p. *su* + d.a.w/noun gen.f.s. *leitourgia* service + pro.acc.m.s. *ego* “to me”]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 25-30

1. Epaphroditus was a member of the Philippian church.
2. His name only occurs 2x; here and at 4:18 where he is noted as the person who delivered the Philippian love offering to Paul in Rome.
3. Shortly after arriving in Rome Paul “thought it necessary” to send him back to Philippi (long journey) without delay (v. 25).
4. Paul’s circumstances were such that he was not ready to send Timothy (v. 23) so he sent Epaphroditus.
5. Paul’s concerns for the church at Philippi was that they received special encouragement from a visit from someone who had been with him in his imprisonment.
6. Epaphroditus would have to fill that need in the interim.
7. Paul refers to him employing three designations.
8. “My brother” simply identifies him as a fellow believer.
9. “Fellow worker” indicates someone whom Paul could rely on to perform any assignment as a trusted courier.

10. It is reasonable to assume that Epaphroditus was the one who delivered this epistle to the Philippians (as was the case with Epaphras and the Colossians; he delivered that letter and the runaway slave Onesimus; cf. Col. 4:12; Phm. 1:23).
11. “Fellow soldier” (also at Phm. 1:2) suggest someone who has participated at an conspicuous level in the “good fight” facing a variety of dangers.
12. Epaphroditus earned that title in the risk to his life in delivering the Philippian offering.
13. “Who is also your messenger” indicates that he was the trusted courier sent by the Philippians to Rome.
14. “Minister to my need” is an indirect reference to Paul’s financial relief to cover expenses related to his situation in Rome.
15. It also may refer to the report Paul received regarding that situation with the church at Philippi which directly influenced the content of this letter.
16. Upon arriving in Rome Epaphroditus somehow learned that the Philippians had heard that he had suffered a serious illness on the journey to Rome (v. 26b).
17. Paul’s decision to send Epaphroditus back to Philippi without delay was greatly heightened by the emotional state of Epaphroditus.
18. The words “since he was longing for you all” (pres.part. *epipotheo* long for/yearn for something/someone; cf. 1:8) refers to his mental state which was intensified when he learned that the Philippians had received a report of his illness (v. 26).
19. This verb also occurs in Rom. 1:11; 2Cor. 5:2; 9:14; 1 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 1:4; Jam. 4:5; 1 Pet. 2:2).
20. The second participle “was distressed” (*ademoneo* be distressed) only occurs here and in connection with Jesus’ soulful pressure in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:17//Mk. 14:33).
21. Epaphroditus was distraught over learning that this news that came to the Philippians would have caused them anguish.
22. He knew that the believers in Philippi were under enough pressure and he did not want to add to it.
23. Paul reports that precise nature of Epaphroditus’ peril that overtook him as he was on his journey to Rome.
24. Paul informs the Philippians that Epaphroditus “was sick to the point of death” something they would not have known.
25. He wasn’t just very sick, his was life threatening, and he barely escaped with his life (v. 27a).
26. Paul gladly reports “but God had mercy on him” indicating that Epaphroditus had a full recovery.
27. Paul relates all this to himself personally saying “and not on him only but also for me.”
28. Had Epaphroditus died on his journey Paul would have lost a brother and valuable colleague in his ministry for the Philippians.
29. “Sorrow upon sorrow” is explained as the sorrow (*lupe*) that would have been if Paul had lost this companion and the sorrow of having to report the loss to the Philippian church.
30. In v. 28 Paul comes back to the reason for his sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi without delay.
31. “I have sent him all the more eagerly” is explained in terms to encouraging the Philippians and relieving them of their anxiety with regards to Epaphroditus.
32. Paul throughout this letter demonstrates his pastoral concern for the emotional well being of the believers in Philippi.

33. Anytime we can take pressure off others we ought to do so.
34. Epaphroditus did not want to bring any distress upon the saints at Philippi, but things were taken out of his hand when he somehow learned that the church had gotten wind of his sickness in route.
35. This positive turn of events provided a strong impetus for Paul to send Epaphroditus back as Paul knew this would buoy the spirits of the congregation.
36. When Epaphroditus arrived back in Philippi the church would celebrate how God had made the sending of one of their number a grand success despite the serious threat to the success of the mission.
37. Paul relates how this turn of events would affect his “concern” for the status of the Philippians considering all that they were facing.
38. “Less concerned” (adj.nom.m.s. *alupoteros*; only here; relieved of anxiety) indicates that the situation at Philippi would still weight on his soul but he would get relief knowing what a boost in morale it would be for the church when Epaphroditus arrived on the scene.
39. In v. 29a Paul enjoins the church to welcome Epaphroditus “in the Lord with all joy.”
40. Perhaps he is hinting at a special occasion in which Epaphroditus is the center of attention.
41. In any case, he encourages the church to take full advantage of the moment in their history.
42. In v. 29b Paul offers high praise for Epaphroditus by holding him up as the type of believer worthy of “high regard” (adj. *entimos* valuable, esteemed, distinguished).
43. And it v. 30 Paul details once again Epaphroditus’ service record in the recent episode.
44. The thing that caused Epaphroditus’ star to rise was his service “for the work of Christ” under extreme duress.
45. Paul restates the fact that “he came close to death” and that rather than taking a way out he “risked his life” to complete his assignment.
46. He put duty over deteriorating health “to complete what was deficient in your service to me.”
47. He was tasked with delivering funds to Paul, a subject that Paul will come back to later in this letter.

END: Philippians Chapter Two
October, 2017
Jack M. Ballinger