

Epaphroditus: Going for Broke (Philippians 2:25–30)

Grace Chapel

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April 15, 2007

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW:

- (1:3–8) Thanks to God for the good work begun at Philippi (financial partnership)
- (1:9–11) Prayer for the Philippians' love to abound still more in discernment so that they would approve the things that really matter (thru Christ enabling)—that they might be rewarded
- (1:12–18) Paul's imprisonment has furthered the gospel, because:
1. Roman officials know that he is innocent, but is imprisoned for the gospel,
 2. many brethren now boldly proclaim gospel w/ proper motivation w/o fear.
Even tho some brethren preach it from envy & strife (hoping to afflict Paul).
but Paul rejoices when the true gospel is proclaimed (something that matters)
- (1:19–26) Paul expects the Lord to answer prayer that Paul not be ashamed, but that he magnify Christ in his body (thru life or thru death), but, as attractive as it is to be with the Lord, Paul wants to minister to the Philippians, so he prefers to remain alive (to go to Philippi)
- (1:27–30) The Philippians' adversaries should not terrify them (by saying that the Philippians' are hell-bound because of their message) because the Philippians were heaven-bound because of their message, for God has given them the same opportunity to both believe the gospel and to suffer for Christ as Paul.
- (2:1–2a) Believers should fulfill Paul's joy because their position enables and encourages them
- (2:2b–3) Specifically, believers should: be like-minded, by regarding others above self
- (2:4) We should not only look out for ourselves, but also for the interests of others
- (2:5–8) Believers ought to have the same (gracious) mindset for others as Christ: i.e., tho Christ was in the form of God, He did not cling to equality with God, but emptied Himself by taking a servant's form & appeared as man, He humbled Himself & obediently died on a cross
- (2:9–11) [In light of Christ obediently dying on a cross] the Father gave Him the supreme name for all creation to bow before Him and to confess Him as Lord to the Father's glory
- (2:12–14) [In light of Christ obediently humbling Himself til God exalts Him] the Philippians, who obeyed Paul (despite his absence), ought to produce their own deliverance (w/o disputing) with an eye to the Bema, because God works in them to accomplish His purposes
- (2:15–16) The purpose for doing all things without complaining and disputing is to be God's blameless and harmless children who shine as lights in this perverse world by holding onto the life-giving word for the purpose that Paul (and the Philippians) may rejoice without shame at the Bema
- (2:17–18) Paul rejoices with the Philippians at their sacrificial service in faith, even though his life is being poured out as a libation offering in prison and they should join him in rejoicing
- (2:19–24) Paul plans to come to Philippi shortly after he sends his proven apprentice, Timothy, so that this likeminded one (unlike those unwilling to go) might encourage Paul with a Philippi update

CONTENT OF VERSES 25–27 IS REPEATED IN VERSES 28–30

1. Paul sends Epaphroditus	(25)	→	1. Paul sends Epaphroditus	(28)
2. Epaphroditus ministered to Paul	(25)	→	2. Epaphroditus ministered to Paul	(30)
3. Epaphroditus almost died	(27)	→	3. Epaphroditus almost died	(30)

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN 25–27 AND 28–30

Verses 25–27 focus upon

Verses 28–30 focus upon

The implication

25–27

(2:25) [Though Timothy & Paul would come soon] Epaphroditus should return to Philippi

The meaning of the name *Epaphroditus*

Brother

Fellow-worker

Fellow-soldier

Your messenger = apostolos = the one you sent

The one who ministered to my need (*leiturgos*)

(2:26) [Epaphroditus should return to Philippi] because he knew that the Philippians worried about his health

(2:27) In explanation of Epaphroditus' sickness, he almost died, but mercifully God healed him

28–30

(2:28) [In light of Paul rejoicing with sorrow] Paul eagerly returned Epaphroditus to increase the Philippians' joy and decrease Paul's sorrow

(2:29) [In light of Paul sending Epaphroditus] the Philippians should rejoice and welcome a man such as Epaphroditus

(2:30) [They ought to rejoice and to welcome a man such as Epaphroditus] because he almost died by risking his life to minister to Paul in the stead of the Philippians

Risking (NKJ = not regarding) = paraboleuomai

Life = pseuchē =

What is lacking

CONCLUSION