



The Sacrifice of Self

Philippians 2:25-30

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Review

1. Like Timothy, if we cultivate a servant's heart and endure a servant's hardships, we will receive a servant's honor, given by God.
2. A servant's heart must be centered on the things of Christ.
3. A servant must put others ahead of him/herself.
4. A servant must be willing to be sent anywhere, be willing to serve anyone, and be willing to sacrifice anything for God.

Epaphroditus

- A. We know almost nothing about Epaphroditus. (He's mentioned twice by Paul; in this passage, in Philippians 4:18 and possibly in Colossians 4:12)
- B. Jesus was the Messiah, Paul was an apostle, Timothy was a Pastor and Epaphroditus was a layman (deacon).
- C. Paul was fully Jewish (a Hebrew); Timothy was part Jewish, part Greek; and Epaphroditus was fully Gentile.
- D. Epaphroditus means "Devoted to Aphrodite."
- E. The historian, Josephus, said that Epaphroditus was a forerunner of the "Parabolani"—the risktakers in early NT ministry.

Message Section

The Sacrifice of Self

1. His Character

Philippians 2:25, NASB95 -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 [He traveled 800 miles with an offering for Paul and then stay there to help him in prison]. . .*

- A. This is about family—we are all related in Christ.
- B. This is about fellowship—we all hold something in common.
- C. This is a fight—we are all in a battle with Satan.
- D. This is about our message—the Gospel.
- E. This is about our ministry to those around us.

2. His Crisis

Philippians 2:26–28, NIV -²⁶ *For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ *Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. . .* ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.*

- A. **Sickness is not always the result of specific sin.**
- B. **God will not always heal instantly and miraculously.**
- C. **Healing is a mercy from God—not something we demand.**

3. His Compensation

Philippians 2:29, NIV -²⁹ *Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him. . .*

Life Application Section – “A Word to the Sick”

- A. **Illness and suffering is part of living in a fallen world.**
- B. **Illness and suffering is unrelated to personal goodness.**
- C. **Illness and suffering amplifies this truth—we need a Savior.**

A personal word to those who are ill or are suffering:

“God will give you one of two miracles—(1) He will give you the miracle of healing, or (2) He will give you the miracle of grace—to live your life in victory, all the while you know you are dying. (The second might be the greater of the two miracles.)”

– Pastor Joe