

Philippians

CHAPTER 2:19-24

Lesson 8

Paul had been careful to apprise the Philippian believers of his state – chained, but not bound. He not only desired to reassure them of his condition but was also concerned about how they were doing. He so wanted to see them that he considered it more profitable to remain alive to minister to them than to depart and be with his precious Lord Jesus. We have no record as to whether Paul saw the Philippians after his release from prison. But we do know that he was not content to wait to hear of their state. Thus, we have arrived at this portion of Philippians where Paul advised them of his desire to send Timothy to them. As you study these verses, climb into Paul's shoes and allow God to show you the heart of this man who cared so very much for his spiritual children.

Observation: Read Philippians 2:19-24

1. These verses deal with Paul's anticipation of sending Timothy to the Philippians and soon being released to see them himself. He begins and ends this section with the same phrase. What is it?
 - a. What two things did Paul *trust in the Lord* for?

2. Paul expressed a deep love and confidence in Timothy. List what these verses reveal about Timothy.
 - a. What impressed you most as you listed attributes of Timothy's character?

3. In your own words, describe what you think Timothy might have been like?

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ...
- *Philippians 1:1*

Background on Timothy

1. Timothy was a key player in the establishment and growth of the first century churches. The name *Timothy* means *honoring God*. Some commentators have described Timothy as fearful. Christianity was not a popular movement. Persecution was frequent. Fearful could not be an attribute of a soldier of Christ, like Timothy. Therefore, we will spend today developing a profile of Timothy solely based on Scripture. What do you learn about Timothy's childhood training from the following verses?

- a. Acts 16:1

- 1.) How might this verse encourage a mother who is married to an unbeliever?

Challenge: How does 1 Corinthians 7:14 further encourage a believing spouse?

- b. 2 Timothy 1:5

- c. 2 Timothy 3:15

2. According to Acts 16:1, we know that Timothy's birth father was Greek. Read 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 1:2, and 2 Timothy 1:2. What did Paul call Timothy?

- a. It is believed that Timothy was converted through Paul on Paul's first missionary journey to Lystra. When Paul came to Lystra on his second missionary journey, Acts 16:1 described Timothy as a *disciple*. From Acts 16:2,3 what else did you discover about Timothy?

3. From Lystra, Timothy accompanied Paul on much of his travels. He was also personally sent by Paul on many crucial missions. From the following verses, list the various cities where Timothy ministered. Next to the city, note anything Paul said about Timothy in the verse.

Acts 18:5

Acts 19:22

Acts 20:4

Romans 16:21 (Note: Romans 16:23 reveals Paul was staying with Gaius who was converted in Corinth)

2 Corinthians 1:19

1 Thessalonians 3:2

Challenge: Paul thought so highly of Timothy that he mentioned him along with himself as the author of six letters. Which ones were they?

4. From Hebrews 13:23, what did you discover about Timothy?
5. Paul's last letters were written during his final imprisonment in Rome. They were both written to Timothy, *a true son in the faith*. It is from 2 Timothy 1:7 that many commentators have described Timothy as *fearful*. What does this verse say?
 - a. Paul may have written this to Timothy because Timothy was a fearful person. He may have written it because Timothy was fearful at the time, especially to use the gift of God which was given to him (2 Timothy 1:6). Keeping in mind all you have read about Timothy, how would you describe him?

Read Philippians 2:19

1. Philippians 2:19 begins Paul's expression of his desire to *send Timothy* to the Philippians. With what seven words does he preface his desire?
 - a. Paul's life centered around his *trust in the Lord Jesus*. What difference does prefacing a desire with the phrase, *But I trust in the Lord Jesus*, make?

2. According to Ephesians 1:13, when does our *trust* in the Lord begin?

3. *Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!* (Isaiah 31:1). *Trust in the LORD* is a frequently used expression in the Bible. Why do you think trusting Him rather than people or things is so important to God?
 - a. What are the areas in your life that you find it most difficult to trust God?
 - 1.) What helps you switch from doubt to trust?

4. According to James 4:13-15, what should our attitude be regarding our plans?
 - a. What aspect of your life plans do you need to present to the Lord this week?

Read Philippians 2:20-22

1. In Philippians 2:20-22, Paul explains his reasons for choosing to send Timothy to the church in Philippi. Record them using your answer from Day One, Question 2.

2. Paul declared that he had *no one like-minded* as Timothy was; he had no one *who will sincerely care for their state* as Paul did. Recall from what you have studied so far in chapters 1 and 2 about Paul's care for the Philippians and record your perceptions.
 - a. What impressed you most about Paul's care for them?

3. Philippians 2:21 describes an attitude that prevents us from truly serving others. What is it?
 - a. Philippians 2:4 reminds us to *look out not only for our own interests, but also for the interests of others*. Often, we think "if we don't take care of ourselves, who will?". What helps you to get beyond yourself and think of others?

 - b. Philemon 1:24 portrays Demas as a fellow laborer. Read 2 Timothy 4:10. Here we read that Demas had *forsaken* Paul. What reason did Paul give for Demas' change of heart?
 - 1.) How can we keep the *love of the world* from creeping into our own lives?

4. Paul described Timothy's service as that of *a son with his father* (Philippians 2:22). What word did Paul use to describe Timothy's *character*?
 - a. Describe what it takes to have *proven character*.

Challenge: The word *proven* is translated as *proof* in the King James Version. Look up and record the definition of this word.

Read Philippians 2:23,24

1. Record Paul's *hope* according to Philippians 2:23
 - a. How soon did Paul desire to send Timothy?

2. Go back to Philippians 2:19 and record the reason Paul was so anxious to send Timothy.
 - a. This kind of concern about another's state is motivated by agape love; unconditional love that only comes from God. As you draw close to the Lord, how is your love for others affected?

3. Summarize Paul's heart for Timothy and for those in Philippi whom he entrusted to Timothy's care.

Review Philippians 2:19-24

1. Using what you learned from these verses, describe the character Paul admired in Timothy.
 - a. Which characteristic challenges you the most?

*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth
through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren,
love one another fervently with a pure heart.*

- 1 Peter 1:22