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"I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need." (Philippians 2:25)

**I. A Servant's Servant (vv.19-24)**

- a. Were the Christians in Rome so lacking in spiritual growth that Paul could not find anyone but Timothy to undertake a mission that required the ability to discern and encourage?
- b. Or, was Paul saying that out of the handful of men who were available to him only Timothy was qualified?
- c. Paul was looking for a servant with the heart and ability to correct, teach and encourage the Philippian church. Could Paul find qualified saints among us?
- d. Much of what we see in the "Christian Community" today does resemble Christ.
- e. Someone said that our churches are filled with commotion and emotion, but there is little devotion to Christ.
  1. We are too easily offended; too busy; too unforgiving; and too critical of one another.
- f. *In a very real sense, all of us live either in Philippians 1:21 or Philippians 2:21.* –Warren Wiersbe
- g. It is sad, but possible, for pastors to use the name of Jesus often without really preaching Jesus.
- h. It is very easy to think we are being Christ-centered while we are really being self-centered.

**II. A Servant's Reputation Worthy of Honor (vv.25-30)**

- a. We know very little about Epaphroditus (means *charming*), but his character is made known to us by the words used by Paul to describe him.
  1. *My brother* – The term is a testimony to the affection Paul felt for the man. Paul and Epaphroditus were different by nature, one was Jew, the other was a Greek. They found fellowship and oneness in Christ.
- b. *Fellow-worker* – They shared the responsibility of Christian service. When Paul said you were a *worker* it spoke to one's devoted relationship to Christ and those they served. Paul considered it a privilege to be called to service. He honored others who accepted the call to be in Christ's service.
- c. *Fellow-soldier* – Paul and Epaphroditus were not only involved in work but also war.
- d. Verse 29 describes the character of Epaphroditus. While seriously ill, his thoughts were not for himself but rather for his brothers and sisters in Christ in Philippi.
- e. No wonder Paul counted Epaphroditus as a brother, worker and soldier, because his character matched Paul's.

**III. Application and Encouragement**

- a. It is interesting that the Philippians knew Timothy and Epaphroditus. *You know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.*
- b. Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright. (Pro 20:11)
- c. The major lesson for us to learn is that the people of God should not take faithful servants for granted but hold them in high esteem. (Pictures at Canaan)