Series: Joy Unbound Passage: Philippians 2:19-30 Sunday: October 19, 2025

Philippians 2:19-30 (ESV)

Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

1.	For each week of this series, we will start with the same question: where did you experience joy in your walk with Jesus this week?

2. How are Christian friendships different from other friendships?

3. As you read this passage, what are the qualities of Timothy and Epaphroditus that Paul highlights?





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4.	Have you experienced or known of a relationship like that of Paul and Timothy (verse 22)? What was it like?
5.	What is the connection between looking after the interests of others (Philippians 2:4) and looking after the interests of Jesus (verse 21)?
6.	Paul shows vulnerability in verses 25-27, giving thanks that Epaphroditus recovered, sparing him from having "sorrow upon sorrow". How do you respond to the idea that Paul would have been stricken with sorrow if Epaphroditus had died?
7.	Paul urges the Philippians to hold people like Epaphroditus in "joy and honor." How can you do more to honor those who serve like Epaphroditus and Timothy?



