

Discussion Notes
Philippians 2.19-30
March 13, 2016
Doug Smith

In this passage we see Paul's deep relationship with those he serves alongside, namely Timothy and Epaphroditus.

2.19

- Timothy is to return to Philippi as Paul is deeply interested in the churches he has planted. This is not just about "getting folks into heaven", Paul wants them to thrive in all areas of life. This is the kingdom arriving in the here and now.
- Paul obeys the Spirit first. This "God willing" language sounds like the prayer Jesus gave us "your kingdom come, your will be done..." Paul stands at the ready to change any course of his life if the Spirit says so.
- Paul and the Philippians struggle! It is possible to be full of the Spirit and joy and still feel sad or in need of cheering up. We can honest but also hopeful! These realities can live together.

2.20-22

- Paul and Timothy clearly have a deep relationship. People are who Paul spends his life on. They have a mentor/mentee relationship that bears great fruit.
- This is how we are "there for one another" as our core value of community states. What are we doing with our lives, if we are not helping other along, or pouring into others so they thrive?
- There is a great need for spiritual fathers, mothers, big brothers and big sisters in the church. We must all take this seriously and engage how we can as we are gifted. Those amongst us who are "spiritually mature" must take great care to encourage and invest in younger people.

2.23-25

- Epaphroditus a good example of how the Philippian church cared for Paul and he for them. They send him this man, along with word about their church and resources to help Paul. This is another reason we care for Global Workers like we do.

2.26-30

- Epaphroditus is ill and Paul shows his care by speaking to the situation as he does. He is someone to be honored for his service! Paul models this.
- There is a value in encouraging and honoring one another. Your service matters!

Discussion Questions:

- What does it look like to be “honest but hopeful” when we are faced with hardship? How does this happen in real life?
- How has encouragement or mentorship shaped you? Who has been that person in your life?
- Who can you encourage this week for how they are serving in the church or the community?