THE HONORABLE CHRISTIAN

Philippians 2: 19-30
2-26-2025

**** "GIVE HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE"*** (ROM. 13:7)

Who is worthy of such honor? Men like Timothy and Epaphroditus who both served with:
1) selfless motives & 2) sterling character

I. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH SELFLESS MOTIVES (His Virtue)
(v. 19-24)

a. He takes genuine interest in others (v. 19-20)

b. He seeks Christ's interests even when all others do not (v. 21)

II. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH STERLING CHARACTER (His Value)
(v.22-24)

III. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH STERLING CHARACTER (His Value)
(v. 25)

a. He is valuable as a <u>brother</u>

b. He is valuable as a <u>fellow worker</u>

c. He is valuable as a <u>fellow soldier</u>

d. He is valuable as a <u>messenger</u>

e. He is valuable as a <u>minister</u>

IV. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH SELFLESS MOTIVES (His Virtue) (v. 26 - 30)

a. He cares about the concerns of others (v. 26)

b. He risks his life for others (v. 27-30)

THE HONORABLE CHRISTIAN

Philippians 2: 19-30

3-5-2025

**** "GIVE HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE"*** (ROM. 13:7)

Who is worthy of such honor? Men like Timothy and Epaphroditus who both served with:
1) selfless motives & 2) sterling character

I. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH SELFLESS MOTIVES (His Virtue)
(v. 19-24)

a. He takes genuine interest in _____ (v. 19-20)

b. He seeks _____ even when all others do not (v. 21)

II. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH STERLING CHARACTER (His Value)
(v.22-24)

III. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH STERLING CHARACTER (His Value)
(v. 25)

a. He is valuable as a _____

b. He is valuable as a _____

c. He is valuable as a _____

d. He is valuable as a _____

e. He is valuable as a _____

IV. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH SELFLESS MOTIVES (His Virtue) (v. 26 - 30)

a. He cares about the _____ (v. 26)

b. He _____ for others (v. 27-30)

THE HONORABLE CHRISTIAN

Philippians 2: 19-30

2-26-2025

INTRO: After discussing the selfless example of Christ, and Paul's selflessness as seen in his willingness to be "offered up" - poured out (in death), the Philippians might have said, "Well, that attitude is possible with Christ because He is God, and that attitude is even possible with Paul because he is a specially chosen apostle, but that isn't so easy for us."

To such a potential response, Paul describes two "ordinary saints" -- Timothy and Epaphroditus.

V. 19 - "Send Timotheus"
V. 25 - "Send Epaphroditus"

At 82, Dr. F. B. Meyer, an eminent Bible expositor, said, "I have but one ambition in life -- that is to be an errand boy for Jesus Christ."

Timothy and Epaphroditus were both messengers.
It is an honor to be an "errand boy" for Christ!

Ex. Heroes that our kids have today.
They should have Christian heroes & follow the example of the heroes of the Bible.

In Phil. 2:19-30, we have two ordinary believers who are described as being heroes, as being truly honorable.

God does not overlook the common people. He wants to use you and will use you if you will meet His requirements.

**** "GIVE HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE"*** (ROM. 13:7)

Who is worthy of such honor?

Men like Timothy and Epaphroditus who both served with:

1) selfless motives & 2) sterling character

I. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH SELFLESS MOTIVES (His Virtue) (v. 19-24)

A. HE TAKES GENUINE INTEREST IN OTHERS (v. 19-20)

"In the Lord" = if it is the Lord's will

"For I have no man" = There were hundreds of Christians in Rome (Paul greets 26 by name - Ro. 16), yet not one of them was available to make the trip.

"Like minded" = same souled; equal souled. Paul and Timothy had similar interests.

"Naturally" - genuinely, sincerely, truly. Lit. = by birth relation (legitimate)

Illus. of a mother who naturally has a genuine interest in her child.

"Naturally" - "Since Timothy had been involved with Paul in founding the church at Philippi, or bringing these spiritual children into the world, it is natural that he should have a fatherly concern for them." (Vos, p. 56).

Timothy's care was not primarily for building programs, programs, etc. But it was for people - people relationships.

B. HE SEEKS CHRIST'S INTERESTS EVEN WHEN ALL OTHERS DO NOT (v. 21)

It is sad that the Roman believers were basically too interested in themselves, their own problems, needs, ambitions.

Appli. This is a major tragedy in churches. People divert time, energy, thought, and concern away from things which matter most.

We tend to substitute our interests in the place of Christ's.

"In a very real sense, all of us live either in Phil. 1:21 or Phil. 2:21!" (Wiersbe, p. 72).

"Their own" - Dr. H.A. Ironside told about a group of believers who were only concerned about their little clique and their own "fellowship." They had no concern for the lost or other believers. In front of their meeting place they had a sign hanging which said: "Jesus Only." But the wind blew away some of the letters, and the sign read - "Us Only" Perfect description of selfish Christians.

In a world of selfishness and self-seeking (cf. Mt. 6:32), it is rare to see people like Timothy.

II. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH STERLING CHARACTER (His Value) (v.22-24)

"proof" = approved character which is found out after testing.

Paul called Timothy his own "dearly beloved son" in the faith (II Tim. 1:2).

"Served" - douleo - to serve as a bond slave.
Devotion and hard labor is rendered
to the master.

Timothy is following Christ's example in being a "doulos" slave (2:7).

Timothy's character (no doubt) grew because he spent time with a man of God. His spiritual roots had a chance to sink deep. He served! Gained on-the-job experience working with Paul. Not just a Sunday morning Christian.

III. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH STERLING CHARACTER (His Value) (v. 25)

What do you know about the man Epaphroditus?
--A member of the Philippian church
--was send to Paul with a gift
--after arriving in Rome, he became gravely ill.

A. HE IS VALUABLE AS A BROTHER

"Brother" = fellow believer; title of endearment (shows intimate relationship).

A brother sympathizes, helps, stands beside those in his family -- as Epaphroditus did for Paul.

B. HE IS VALUABLE AS A FELLOW WORKER

"Companion in labor" - fellow worker; "worker together with"

"Fellow worker" - whenever we link our lives with others in God's service, even in common tasks, we are designated as "fellow workers."

We labor together in prayer, in giving, in discipling, in building (Your work in hospitality, teaching, nursery, etc. makes you a fellow laborer).

Our common boss is Jesus Christ . . .and He pays well!

C. HE IS VALUABLE AS A FELLOW SOLDIER

We belong to an elite army. We`re soldiers of the King!

1) Being a soldier requires discipline

II Tim. 2:3-4 - "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2) Being a soldier involves conflict

Paul was on the front lines and Epaphroditus stood right with him.

A spiritual foe (Eph. 6:12) demands that we use spiritual weapons (not carnal or fleshly weapons) -
II Cor. 10:3-4 Eph. 6:11-17

NOTE: Epaphroditus was a balanced Christian. Ex. He just wasn't a worker; he was a worker and a soldier, etc.

Ex. of Nehemiah who build with a sword in one hand, and a trowel in the other (Neh. 4:17).

D. HE IS VALUABLE AS A MESSENGER

"messenger" = a sent one; an unofficial apostle.

One who is sent out with a task to fulfill. One entrusted with a mission.

Implies faithfulness to the job.

E. HE IS VALUABLE AS A MINISTER

"Minister" = he served to the point of death.

IV. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH SELFLESS MOTIVES (His Virtue) (v. 26 - 30)

A. HE CARES ABOUT THE CONCERNS OF OTHERS (v. 26)

"Heaviness" = distress, grieved, troubled

"Sick" = lit. without strength.

NOTE: Most people crave others to know, be concerned etc. about their personal illness. It sort of pacifies one's ego to know that others are concerned about you. But Epaphroditus was not burdened about himself; he was burdened over the people in Philippi because they were worried about him!

B. HE RISKS HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS (v. 27-30)

v. 27 & 30 - "Nigh unto" = to the point of; like saying "next door to"

"God had mercy" - implies the hopelessness of the situation from man's point of view.

"Sorrow upon sorrow" = Paul's sorrow added to the sorrow of the Philippian church.

What a homecoming he must have had!

"We will have a royal reception one day. It will not be in Philippi, but in paradise. It won't be a brief exchange of greetings, but a blessed eternity of glory. When Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States, he was returning once from a game hunt in Africa. A missionary couple who had invested more than forty years of life in Africa traveled aboard the same ship. A cheering crowd welcomed Roosevelt and his entourage at the New York harbor. The old missionary couple disembarked without anyone to greet them. The wife was heavyhearted, but the husband said: "My dear wife, cheer up. This is not as yet our homecoming." A better day awaits us. The littleknown Christian will be welcomed to his eternal home by the Master. What a homecoming that will be! (Taylor, p. 99).

"Reputation" = honor, prized, precious.

This verse is not a contradiction of 2:7 - "Christ made himself of no reputation." It was God (the Father) that honored Him, and it is the church that Paul is commanding to honor Epaphroditus.

One who selfishly seeks honor is wrong! Honoring is not wrong!

Parents (Eph. 6:2), widows (I Tim. 5:3), and pastors are to be honored (I Thes. 5:12-13; "double honor" - I Tim. 5:17).

"Not regarding his life" = risked, exposed, gambled.

The word "paraboleuomai" was used in the papyri of one who in the interest of friendship had exposed himself to dangers as an advocate in legal strife by taking his client's causes even up to emperors. The word was also used of a fighter in the arena who exposed himself to the dangers of the arena (Rienecker, p. 555).

"Not regarding his life" - a stern rebuke to easy-going Christianity which makes no stern demands, and calls for no limits of self-denial and sacrifice.

"A religion that costs nothing is good for nothing."

David said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (I Sam. 24:24).

All of us have known people who were nigh unto death because of overwork in the shop of office. People have become physical and psychological wrecks because of greed and coveteousness, and they pack out hospitals and mental institutions. What a waste!

How many come nigh unto death for a good cause - for Christ?

"To supply your lack" - is not a rebuke, but a statement that Epaphroditus had to additionally serve Paul in a manner that the Philippians could not since they were 700 miles away.

CONCLU: Give honor to whom honor is due!

An honorable Christian is one who faithfully serves with

1) selfless motives
2) sterling character

Illus. "Where is the Piccolo?"

"Sir Michael Costa was once rehearsing with a large orchestra and hundreds of singers. The piccolo player felt that amid the thunder of the organ, the roll of the drums, and the music of the other instruments that he did't need to play, so he stopped. But the great conductor threw up his arms and shouted, "Where is the piccolo?" (Taylor, p. 92)

No matter how insignificant you may think your contribution to the cause of Christ is - you are vitally valuable.

No one is insignificant! As a matter of fact those who may not be much in the world's eyes, but who are faithful like Timothy and Epaphroditus are the real heros!