

Phil. 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

2:20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

2:22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.

2:23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

2:24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

2:25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

2:26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

2:27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

2:28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

2:30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

[From today's sermon.

This is Paul's letter of encouragement from prison. In prison. He did not know "how things would turn out" (v. 23), and he had "the pains of imprisonment" (1:17). At times he longed to be removed from the earth and placed in heavenly rest, but he longed more for reunion with those in the church in Philippi.

There was persecution from outside the church in the form of imprisonment, and in addition, there were those within the church who were acting out of partisanship. Paul tells people about Jesus, the root of this teaching. He also spoke of himself, saying, "I will rejoice even though my blood be sprinkled on the altar. Paul truly lived the Lord's way as his own.

So did Timothy. Timothy also said, "No one else has a heart like Timothy's and cares for you with kindness.

And Epaphroditus, too, was willing to die, "risking his life for the work of Christ.

Paul said, "Every man seeketh his own, and not the things of Christ Jesus. As Paul said, "Each one of you should think not only of himself but also of others," and I hope that we will move from thinking that someone else will do something for us and help us to seriously consider what we can do for the Lord and for our fellow man, so that we can serve and help each other

and be people who realize the mind of Christ Jesus.

Good morning everyone.

We are reading through this book of Philippians, which is called the “Letter of Joy”. How many times do we read the words “Rejoice” in this book?

He was in prison, and there was persecution outside the church that would imprison him in this way, and there was partisanship and division within the church. Paul saw this and said it was “adding affliction to the affliction of my imprisonment.

Paul must have felt like he was going to die in prison. He could hear the deaths of the other inmates leaking from inside the prison. He even wishes he could leave. He says he is caught between a rock and a hard place. He says that he would rather “leave this world and be with Christ, which is actually much preferable. But over and above that, he says, “It is even more necessary for you to remain in the body. I am so convinced of this that I will live and remain with you all, that your faith may be advanced and that you may rejoice in it.

His desire to serve others came from Jesus.

2:1 Therefore, if you have any encouragement from Christ, encouragement of love, fellowship of the Spirit, zeal and mercy,

2:2 I beseech you to be of the same mind, of the same love, of the same accord, of one mind, and of one mind, that you may be filled with my joy.

2:3 Do not do anything out of partisanship or vanity, but in humility of mind make one another better than yourselves.

2:4 Consider not yourselves only, but also others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.

2:6 For though Christ was in the form of God, do not consider equality with God a thing to be adhered to; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect in the sight of God,

2:7 Instead, He humiliated Himself and took the form of a servant, taking the form of a man.

2:8 And he abased himself, and was not like unto man,

2:8 He humbled Himself, and was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore, seeing such a figure of Jesus, and knowing that it was the love and salvation of God that is without error and powerful, Paul himself said, “And he was not like a man, but was obedient to God, even unto death, even the death of the cross.

2:17 And I will rejoice even though my blood be sprinkled on the altar of your faith offerings. I will rejoice with all of you.

2:18 In the same way you also rejoice. Rejoice with me.

Paul, like the Lord who laid down his life on the cross, is willing to give even his life when the need arises.

And in today's passage, there are two more such people who share Paul's sentiment.

2:19 Now I desire in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly. For I want to know how you are, that I may be strengthened also.

2:20 For there is none else like Timothy, who has a tender heart and cares for you.

2:20 For there is none else like Timothy, who has the same mind as I do, and cares for you with kindness. (New Community Translation)

Timothy will continue to care for you with concern, concern, care and concern. Paul tells us that there is no one else who shares the same feelings as he does, who genuinely, truly, sincerely, and sincerely will continue to think of you as he does, I Paul. Timothy also loved the church in Philippi as much as Paul did, and he loved the church of God. I want to send this Timothy to the church in Philippi to strengthen them. Paul says, “If Timothy is the only one who deeply understands and is of the same mind as I am, then surely he will go there and give them good encouragement, realize their problems, bring them back to me for various consultations, rejoice, pray, and be strengthened, so I will send him soon, right now.

2:21 For every man seeketh his own, and not the things of Christ Jesus.

Here is Paul's confession.

Timothy is the only one who shares the same feelings with him, which means that others do

not share Paul's deep feelings. And not sharing Paul's feelings means that they do not share the feelings of Jesus Christ. This is where his loneliness must have been.

2:1 Therefore, if you have any exhortation by Christ, any encouragement of love, any fellowship of the Spirit, any fervor and mercy,

2:2 I beseech you to be of the same mind, of the same love, of the same accord, of one mind, and of one mind, that ye may be filled with my joy.

2:3 Do not do anything out of partisanship or vanity, but in humility of mind make one another better than yourselves.

2:4 Consider not yourselves only, but also others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.

I want you to unite your thoughts with Christ. How hard and painful the Lord Jesus went through for us as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! That is what Isaiah 53 says. And we have been served, redeemed, taken the place of, and gained much, and now we are here, so why do we keep on being served, helped, and given to, and never move forward from that place?

Every man seeks only his own, but not the things of Christ Jesus." Do not these words speak heavily to us?

2:22 But you know Timothy's mastery of discipline. 2:22 But Timothy, as you know, is a son of God; that is, he has served the gospel with me, as a son does to his father.

2:23 Therefore I desire to send him to you as soon as I know what I am going to do.

2:24 I myself am convinced in the Lord that I shall go soon.

Timothy served me as a son serves his father. And so he has served the gospel with me.

He has served me and served the gospel.

This phrase, "serving the gospel," also strikes me as very weighty.

Are we seeking Christ (without seeking ourselves) and serving the gospel (without seeking ourselves)?

We seek Christ because we seek our own, we seek the gospel for our own merit, and we take it literally as good news, but can we seek Christ and serve the gospel in the same way when it impoverishes us or causes us pain, vilification, or persecution? When we choose to follow the

path of faith, when we desire our future, we believe because this Christianity benefits us, but can we choose Christ and serve the gospel even when it does not benefit us?

As we see in verse 23, Paul does not know what will happen to him. He was in a precarious, confused, and troubled situation, not knowing what was going to happen. But he did not suffer from it. There was no sense of sadness. He simply said, “I don't know my situation right now, but as soon as I know, I will send Timothy there, and I am sure that I will be there soon. God cares about those who serve Christ and the gospel. He had a deep sense of confidence and peace that he had not known when he was seeking for his own needs and trying hard to get what he wanted for himself.

2:25 But for the time being, I feel it necessary to send back to you Epaphrodite, my fellow worker and comrade-in-arms, and your messenger who has helped me in my time of need.

2:26 For he is eager to see you all. 2:26 For he is anxious to see you all, and he is distressed because you have heard of his illness.

2:27 He was indeed very sick, and God was merciful to him; but he was not only merciful to him, but also to me. 2:27 And God had mercy on him, and not only on him, but also on me, so that I did not have sorrow upon sorrow.

2:28 Then I will send him back with great haste. Now you will be glad to see him again, and I, too, will be relieved of my anxieties.

2:29 Therefore be very glad and receive him in the Lord. And these people must be respected.

2:30 For he has died and will die for the work of Christ, that he may make up for your inability to minister to me.

Here is another person who comes into the picture. It is Epaphrodite, Paul's fellow worker and brother-in-arms. He was a messenger sent by the church in Philippi to help Paul. He single-mindedly aided Paul and helped him to make up for his plight.

In the midst of his difficult and intense work, he even became deathly ill, but God blessed him and saved him. When word of his illness reached the church in Philippi, Epaphrodite was distressed to hear that the church was very concerned, and Paul was very distressed as well. Paul made the decision to return him for his sake and for the sake of the church, wishing to keep his brother, Paul's fellow worker and comrade-in-arms, by his side to help him while he was in prison. This is how I want you to respect people. Paul said, “He has risked his life and died for the work of Christ to make up for your inability to serve me.”

He gave his life and died for the work of Christ to make up for your inability to serve me. These are heavy words. The words “risked their lives.” Epaphrodite literally risked his life for the work of Christ, even to the point of death. Paul calls him a fellow worker and comrade-in-arms, a brother, as he sees himself.

He says, “Every man seeketh after his own self, and not after Christ Jesus.”

‘As the Son is to the Father, so have you served the gospel with me.’

‘I have risked my life and died for the work of Christ.’

My fellow worker and comrade-in-arms, my brother.

I wondered what I might be like for Paul, who is resting in heaven. I believe that we will be encouraged by the love of Christ, prayed for with joy, and go forward with strength this week.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship service. Thank you for the way Paul, Timothy, and Epaphrodite served the Lord for the families of their flocks as they gave their lives. Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” One man, the Son of God, bore the sins of all the world. The Lord taught us that those who have been forgiven and have borne the sins of the world are not to take it for granted that they have always been given and helped, but that the Lord is pleased when we stand up to serve and help others next time. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.