

Philippians 2c

2:19-30

19 – 21 (1 Corinthians 4:17) Why does Paul want to send Timothy to them?

What quality is it about him that Paul values?

What is a genuine interest in the welfare of the Philippians? Sedonans?

Are you being changed so that you value the interests of Jesus Christ?

How are we as a fellowship doing in valuing Jesus' interests?

What do you think Jesus' interests are? 2 Cor 5:14,15 3 John 1:3,4

At this point Luke must have been away from Rome. The wording 'genuine interest' implies more than a fleeting concern. It is something with him always.

22 – 24 Timothy had been to Philippi at least three times. (Acts 16,19,20) "Proved himself" is in the sense of a metal tested in the fire.

I think the Lord is still proving many of us. What do you think?

Note the father son relationship that Paul refers to here in the same way he does in other letters. Also consider that Paul says Timothy served 'with' not served me. The common language of today's Pastor/ Assistant Pastor contracts are that the Assistant Pastor serves the Pastor not the Lord. He serves at the Pastor's discretion not the Lord's discretion. Great for businesses but unlike Paul and Timothy's working relationship. "see how things will go" see how the court handles the charges against him. You have probably heard, "If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

25 – 30 Again Paul uses terms that show he saw brothers in the ministry as equal co-laborers, not comparing himself or them. He calls Epaphroditus: brother (*adelphos*, common sympathy), fellow-worker (*sunergos*, common work), fellow-soldier (*sunstratiôtês*, common danger as in Phm 1:2). Messenger is the same word as apostle. We should grow to a place we can apply these expressions to each other.

Where did Epaphroditus come from and why?

Why were both Epaphroditus and the Philippians distressed?

(distressed is the same word in Mt 26:37)

What added to his distress?

Is this the kind of concern we feel for one another? Where does such concern come from?

In the second century Christians were referred to as "life riskers" because they would put their life on the line for the dying. Have you observed a "risker"?

How do we honor people like that?

What do you think it means, "make up for the help you could not give me"?

In this passage the Apostle Paul is sending Timothy to Philippi to instruct and encourage them and bring back news of how they are doing. He is also sending them back Epaphroditus which will leave him pretty much alone in jail. He genuinely cares for this fellowship so that their well being is of greater concern to him than his own. Though we are not apostles, could we do something like this in the same Spirit?