



WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Let the Praises Ring, King Jesus, Lord I Offer My Life

WELCOME

How do you spend your day in this time of enhanced community quarantine or lockdown? What are the things that you now enjoy that you didn't get to enjoy before this COVID-19 pandemic happened? What are new challenges that you now have to overcome on a daily basis?

WORD

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-20, 25

¹⁹But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. ²⁰For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare...

²⁵But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need;

Read Philippians 2:19-30

The kill joy that we're going to deal with today is called selfishness. The truth is when we are selfish we actually not only steal other people's joy but eventually our own joy will be diminished.

Rather, we can become persons of real joy and when we overflow with joy, we deliver it into the lives of other people. Part of our duty and privilege as followers of Jesus is to be joy givers. We should show that joy to other people so that in so doing we can point people to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We arrive at this juncture of the Book of Philippians where Paul is under house arrest in Rome and he talks about two amazing men--Timothy and Epaphroditus-- who served him in his time of greatest need. Even though they were facing challenging times and difficult circumstances themselves, they had the joy of Jesus. They became givers of joy not only to the apostle Paul but to many other people. Let's see what Paul has to say about these two men:

1. TIMOTHY

We know a lot about Timothy from the Bible. The name means "one who honors God". He's a native of Lystra in the province of Galatia. His father was Greek, and his mother was a Jew. He had a Christian mother and grandmother. It was Paul who led him to Christ (1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Timothy 1:2, 18; 2 Timothy 1:2). He had a tremendous exposure to Paul's ministries and thus, was considered to be Paul's disciple or mentee.

But just like you and me, he was far from perfect. Timothy, despite his relative youth, had his own share of physical challenges (1 Timothy 5:23). As a young minister, he also had

moments of needing encouragement and so Paul wrote him in 2 Timothy 1:7 words of encouragement.

In **v.19**, Paul was addressing the believers in the church of Philippi and he was thinking of sending Timothy to update and encourage them and when he returns to Rome, report to Paul on what's going on with the Philippian believers. They did not have our kind of technology, so Timothy couldn't just email Paul from Philippi, or do a group chat with the Philippian believers to ask how they were doing! Messages had to be delivered personally through people like Timothy who was willing to travel long distances and do what he was asked to do, and here we see that **Timothy was a faithful and reliable messenger**.

Paul also referred to Timothy as a **kindred spirit** ("equal soul") and someone who's **genuinely concerned** for the Philippians as he was (v.20). When people were busy doing their own thing and looking after their own interests (v.21), Timothy showed to be of **proven worth** (v.22). He has been tested repeatedly, vigorously and approved in the end. He has served with Paul in pointing people to Jesus.

Paul was going to send Timothy as soon as he possible while being honest enough to say that he also needed Timothy's assistance (vv.23-24). That was how precious Timothy was, not only to the people at Philippi, but to Paul himself while he was in prison. Timothy brought joy to his father in the faith.

2. EPAPHRODITUS

In contrast to Timothy, we know almost nothing about Epaphroditus. All we know is that he was sent by the church in Philippi with their financial blessing to Paul while he was

WORD (cont'd)

in prison. Epaphroditus means “favored by Aphrodite” so he could easily have been a lovely and charming Gentile; there is no detail of his conversion given—we “meet” him here already a committed follower of Jesus.

It doesn't matter whether you have an extensive background known by many like Timothy's or not that many know of your family or your background like Epaphroditus. **God can use anyone trustworthy in His service.** Let's dig in on how Apostle Paul described Epaphroditus in **v.25**:

- brother** “from the same womb” not literal blood brothers but brothers in Christ – He was a true follower of Jesus.
- fellow worker** “synergy” – Paul and Epaphroditus were so likeminded. They are of one heart in doing Christ's work—same goal, same motivation, same Lord.
- fellow soldier** – They are in unison as they advance the work of Jesus Christ here on earth
- messenger**- Apostle or “sent one”, sent by the church to minister to Paul. As a messenger, he did not mind the journey from Philippi to Rome which is about 700-800 miles taking 2 months to make a one-way trip.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. How has this global pandemic impacted your joy? Have you been a joy giver or a joy taker lately? Explain your answer.
2. What are some remarkable traits of Timothy and Epaphroditus that are worth emulating?
3. What can we do to be joy givers to other people and point them to Jesus especially in these extraordinary times?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for and with people over the phone and through other online platforms. Include the frontliners and people infected with the virus in your prayer. Care for the other members of your family. Protect the elderly and people at risk. Share CCF's online offerings. You may also share your financial or material resources to those in need. Most important of all, share the priceless and eternal truth of the gospel to people at home, your co-workers, neighbors and friends even if you can only do so online at this time.

•**minister** – He was a “public servant” who was so devoted to his calling that he will discharge his duties even at his own expense.

Paul mentions again Epaphroditus in Philippians 4:18. Everything that was sent for Paul was received in full. Whatever was entrusted to Epaphroditus, he simply passed on to others, and he passed on joy. He was indeed a joy giver (vv.28-29). It was him who filled-in the gap for what was deficient in the Philippian believers' service to Paul because of their physical distance, for we can say that Paul was in an extreme “lockdown” in prison (v.30)! Epaphroditus exhibited selfless service even to the point of death (v.27). He was such a blessing and joy to Paul.

How is your joy today? How are you passing on the joy entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit?

If you know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you can know his joy. Jesus has the only genuine joy in the universe. He is the original joy-giver and when we give our lives to Him, we will experience that joy ourselves. Jesus said your joy can be made full-- meaning it will be filled to capacity (John 15:11) and when it does, you can now glorify God as you overflow joy to others in these trying times.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Wisdom, protection and saving faith for the frontliners and government leaders
- Nations around the world to recognize God as the only one who can end this pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends