



**Philippians 2:19-30- "Model Servants"**  
October 9th, 2016

## OBSERVE & REFLECT

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

### READ Philippians 2:19-30

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

## INVESTIGATE & APPLY

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. In this passage, Paul gives practical updates on the health and comings and goings of messengers. Take a second to read the end of the letter (Phil 4:1-18). Using these two passages, what events have happened or will happen according to Paul?
2. Read v. 19-23. Why might Paul have felt the need to keep Timothy with him for the time being? Why might Paul have felt the need to explain to the Philippian church his plans for Timothy?
3. Paul seemed to have many partners in ministry, but he seemed to share a deep bond with Timothy. Looking at v. 19-26, as well as 1 Cor. 4:16-17, what words does Paul use to describe and commend Timothy?
4. Note the language that Paul uses to describe Timothy and Epaphroditus in this passage. Then, reread v. 1-18. What themes and words are in both sections? Is Paul merely acknowledging and commending these two men, or is he also implying something more?
5. In verse 25, Paul describes Epaphroditus in five different ways. List them, and explain what you think he means in your own words.

"It is easy to forget that the great apostle Paul needed friends too. In his illness, he needed Dr. Luke. In his difficult travels, he needed Barnabas & Silas. In his imprisonment, he needed help & provision from friends. Paul needed friends who made life richer & more enjoyable."

-Chuck Swindoll

## NEXT STEPS

- ☀ Who are the people in your life who model Jesus to you? Do you have any people in your life like Timothy and Epaphroditus? Who are the people who helped you become who you are? Take a moment to thank God for the people who have impacted you spiritually, and to let them know what a blessing they have been in your life.
- ☀ In what ways does phony religiosity (those who call themselves "Christian" but seem no different from anyone else) hurt the credibility of Christ and the church?
- ☀ Who are the people in your life to whom you model Jesus? In what ways would they say you model Christ to them?



## **Philippians 2:19-30**

[19] I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. [20] For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. [21] For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. [22] But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. [23] I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, [24] and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

[25] I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, [26] for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. [27] Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. [28] I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. [29] So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, [30] for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.