

TO LIVE IS CHRIST**Committed to Jesus and to Others****Philippians 2:19–30**

“I have no one else like [Timothy], who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.” Phil. 2:20–21

Day 1: Read Philippians 2.

1. Quickly review verses 1–18. In a sentence, state the theme of these verses. (Hint: What character trait was modeled for us by Christ Jesus?) What can we surmise is a problem that has cropped up in the Philippian church community?
2. Keeping question 1 in mind, scan verses 19–30. Based on what we’re told about them, why do you think Paul chooses to mention Timothy and Epaphroditus here?

Day 2: Read Philippians 2:19–24.

3. Paul implies that Timothy can bring help to Philippi that many people would not be able to bring. What is unique about Timothy? What might the church in Philippi be able to learn from Timothy?
4. How has Timothy grown to become such a valued coworker of Paul’s?
5. In his commendation of Timothy, what attitude towards Timothy on the part of the Philippians is Paul trying to nip in the bud? (See 1 Tim. 4:12.)

Day 3: Read Philippians 2:19–30.

6. Think about how often you take a “genuine interest” (vs. 20) in the welfare of others. In what ways does genuine interest translate into action?
7. Name some of the interests of Jesus Christ: What is he concerned about? What is important to him? (Give a verse(s) to support your answer. Find one on your own or refer to the following: Matt. 28:18–20; Jn. 3:16; 4:34–35; 6:27–29, 53–58; Eph. 1:6, 12–14; Phil. 2:5–8; Col. 1:19–20; 1 Thess. 4:3a.)

8. What changes would need to be made in your life for you to look after Jesus Christ's interests before your own? (Look at your motives especially; form this into a prayer request to share with your small group.)

Day 4: Read Philippians 2:19–30.

9. What do we know about Epaphroditus? (4:18) How does Paul feel about him?
10. What has Epaphroditus done for Paul? How is this a picture of what Christ has done for us?
11. Why is Paul sending Epaphroditus back to the Philippians? What do you think Paul hopes Epaphroditus will do when he returns home?
12. In 1:7–8 Paul expresses how dear his readers are to him. What further evidence of this appears in this week's passage?
13. What news might Paul find encouraging to hear about the Philippians? (Recall 1:9–11.)
14. What do we learn here about how Paul and the Philippians have cared for each other?

Day 5: Read Philippians 2:19–30.

15. What phrase shows us where Paul places his hope and confidence? (vss. 19, 24) What difference might this make in Paul's plans? (Jas. 4:13–15)
16. Paul admits to anxiety in this section (vs. 28), and yet, later in his letter exhorts us to be anxious for nothing (4:6). Is he contradicting himself here? Is anxiety sin or isn't it?
17. What does Paul say about how Timothy and Epaphroditus should be treated? (vss. 29–30)

18. Who are the people that you should honor because they have faithfully served Jesus? How have you encouraged them and shown your thanks? Pray for your leaders, thank God for them, and ask God to show you ways to serve them in return.