

# FEB 28 2010

## Preposition, part 7: The Joy of Fellows (Philippians 2:19–30) (2)



→ Timothy

### → Philippians 2:19–30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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;

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

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.

Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again

you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

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

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.

### → Message Notes: The Basis of Fellowship, verses 19a & 24

The Basis of Fellowship is trust in the Lord

Paul trusted in the Lord in every area of his life, including his current circumstance

Paul trusted in the Lord to have men like Timothy and Epaphroditus

- Paul trusted in the Lord to be able to send them
- Paul trusted them because they trusted in the Lord

Paul trusted in the Lord to be able to visit himself—once he got out of jail!

➔ **Message Notes: The Best Fellow, verses 19b-24**

Timothy minded the things of Christ Jesus

- This made him like-minded with Paul, literally same-souled
- This made him sincerely caring for the Philippians

Timothy served in the Gospel

Timothy was a source of joy to Paul and to the Philippians

➔ **Message Notes: The Blessed Fellow, verses 25-30**

He was engaged in the work of Christ. Paul called him:

- a brother
- a fellow worker
- a fellow soldier
- a fellow messenger

He was abandoned to the work of Christ

He considered both Paul and the Philippians as his work of Christ

Paul instructed the Philippians to receive and esteem Epaphroditus.

- By receiving they should welcome him home and back into his pastoral relationship
- By esteeming they should give him a measure of honor and respect for the position and relationship he had with them

E D L D I R T E  
 R S O R R O W B  
 O U S O I D W T  
 F E L L O W E S  
 E H A O D E I U  
 R O F L C O C D  
 E S U A C E B D  
 H T A E D N E S  
 T S I R H C A D

ALSO BECAUSE CHRIST  
 DEATH FELLOW LORD  
 SEND SORROW THEREFORE

➔ **Philippians 2:19–30**

➔ **Timothy's Proven Character**

19. [Php 2:22](#), “ye know the proof of him ... that ... he hath served with me,” implies that Timothy had been long with Paul at Philippi; Accordingly, in the history ([Ac 16:1–4](#)), we find them *setting out* together from Derbe in Lycaonia, and together again at Berea in Macedonia, near *the conclusion* of Paul’s missionary journey: an *undesigned* coincidence between the Epistle and history, a mark of genuineness [Paley]. From [Php 2:19–30](#), it

appears Epaphroditus was to set out at once to allay the anxiety of the Philippians on his account, and at the same time bearing the Epistle; Timothy was to follow after the apostle’s liberation was decided, when they could arrange their plans more definitely as to *where* Timothy should, on his return with tidings from Philippi, meet Paul, who was designing by a wider circuit, and slower progress, to reach that city. Paul’s reason for sending Timothy so soon after having heard of the Philippians from Epaphroditus was that they were now suffering persecutions ([Php 1:28–30](#)); and besides, Epaphroditus’ delay through sickness on his journey to Rome from Philippi, made the tidings he brought to be of less recent date than Paul desired. Paul himself also hoped to visit them shortly.

Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, A. R. Fausset et al. *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*, [Php 2:19](#). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997.

➔ **Paul Commends Timothy**

Both Greek philosophers and Old Testament prophets complained about the scarcity of those fully devoted to the cause. Paul offers many “letters [or passages] of recommendation,” a common ancient form of writing (see comment on [Rom 16:1–2](#)), but he places Timothy, his special emissary, in a category by himself, offering the highest commendation.

Keener, C. S., & InterVarsity Press. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary : New Tes-*

*tament* ([Php 2:19](#)). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

➔ **Paul Sends Timothy**

Paul probably met Timothy on his first missionary journey ([Acts 14:6ff](#)), at which time, perhaps, the youth was converted ([1 Cor. 4:17](#)). Apparently, Timothy’s mother and grandmother had been converted first ([2 Tim. 1:3–5](#)). He was the son of a Jewish mother and Gentile father, but Paul always considered the young man his own “dearly beloved son” in the faith ([2 Tim. 1:2](#)). When Paul returned to Derbe and Lystra while on his second journey, he enlisted young Timothy as one of his fellow laborers ([Acts 16:1–4](#)). In one sense, Timothy replaced John Mark, whom Paul had refused to take along on the journey because of Mark’s previous abandonment of the cause ([Acts 13:13; 15:36–41](#)).

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* ([Php 2:19](#)). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

➔ **Acts 16:1–3a**

Then he (Paul) came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the son* of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him.