

02/05/10 (pm) - Series on Philippians - Sermon 21

Epaphroditus: A Model Christian

Philippians 2:25-30

***Theme:** Epaphroditus is an example of what it means to be totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul holds up Epaphroditus as an example of what he has just been speaking about in 1:27-2:18.

He is a Godly example of how the Philippians should imitate Christ.

1. Epaphroditus was a Commended Christian (2:25)

Paul describes him in five ways:

1. A brother

2. A fellow worker

3. A fellow soldier in enduring
opposition and persecution.

4. A messenger

5. A minister - he ministered to Paul's needs.

Paul's commendation of Epaphroditus was testimony of Epaphroditus's commitment to Jesus Christ.

**Principle: A Christian's
commitment to Jesus Christ may
be gauged by how (s)he is
commended by other Christians.**

*Is your commitment to Jesus Christ
reflected in how other Christians
would commend you?*

2. Epaphroditus was a Compassionate Christian (2:26-28)

Four reasons why Paul is sending Epaphroditus back to the Philippian fellowship:

1. Epaphroditus missed the Philippians (2:26a).

2. Epaphroditus was distressed because the Philippians had heard he was ill (2:26b-27) - but not that he had recovered.
3. The Philippians would be glad (2:28a-b).
4. Paul would have less anxiety (2:28c).

Both Paul and Epaphroditus are examples to us because they demonstrated commitment to Jesus by showing compassion to others.

Principle: A Christian's commitment to Jesus Christ may be gauged by the degree to which (s)he demonstrates compassion for others.

Are you compassionate towards others?

3. Epaphroditus was a totally Committed Christian (2:29-30)

Epaphroditus was prepared to die for Jesus.

Principle: A Christian's commitment to Jesus Christ is often gauged by how far (s)he will go, or has gone, for Jesus.

Are you totally committed to Jesus?

Conclusion—Not a Paul or a Timothy ... but just as Committed!

Epaphroditus was not a *front man* like Paul or Timothy. He was an ordinary Christian who was sent to deliver a gift to Paul and to help him. Yet he was used by Paul as a model of Christ-likeness.

Maybe you are not a front person...

*...but you can be, and are called to
be, like Epaphroditus.*

We are all called to be Christ-like.