

TWO GOSPEL CO-WORKERS

PRAY Father, use your Word to build in me greater trust in your power to save and sustain me.

READ **PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30**

REFLECT Identify where you are in tune with Christ's mindset (Philippians 2:5) and give thanks for what God has done to make you like that.

Reread verses 6-11. In what ways do Timothy's and Epaphroditus' lives show 'the same mindset as Christ Jesus' (2:5)?

Timothy (v. 19-24) is a regular co-worker of Paul. He is son and grandson of godly Jewish women (2 Timothy 1:5). His father was Greek (Acts 16:1). Paul had Timothy circumcised so that he would be acceptable in evangelism in Jewish circles (Acts 16:3). Paul often sends him to prepare for a visit or to see how a church is doing in Paul's absence (v. 19; e.g., 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, 6). Timothy's readiness to focus on Christ's interests, rather than his own, is central to his work (v. 21).

Epaphroditus is sent by the Philippians to support Paul (v. 25) but has become very ill (vv. 26, 27, 30). Epaphroditus was probably the bearer of money to support Paul during his Roman imprisonment. Paul appreciates him, describing him very positively (v. 25).

However, illness prevented Epaphroditus from serving Paul as the Philippians had hoped. Nevertheless, Paul does not want his hearers to see him as a failure, so he speaks warmly of him and calls the believers to honor him (v. 29). Paul recognizes Epaphroditus' readiness to serve even at great cost to himself.

APPLY Thank someone in your Christian community this week who serves sacrificially for the sake of God's kingdom.

PRAY Thank you, Father, for those in my church like Timothy and Epaphroditus, who serve in the background, putting Christ's interests first, even at cost to themselves.