

15. It seems that in every church there are more jobs that need doing than there are people to do them. Are there ways in which you could serve where there is need?

Pray

That God would give us servant hearts and a desire, like Timothy, to be concerned with the interests of others, and of Christ.

Pray for the various areas of ministry in the church where we need people to help. There is a continuing need for a Youth and Children's Co-ordinator, we will need someone next year to replace Joan Geddes as Churchwarden and someone to replace Bill Waller as Treasurer. There are also gaps in the cleaning rota and help is needed with Rooted & Elevation.

Continue to pray for our joint Mission in March, for the planning of events, for enthusiasm for evangelism and for getting non believers to attend and for the students from Oak Hill who will be with us for part of the time.

*David Phillips,
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Philippians

Study 6 : Timothy & Epaphroditus Philippians 2.19-30



Timothy

Timothy is an interesting character. You have to ferret around in the Bible but there is quite a lot said about him in Acts, the two letters written to him and the nine others where he is mentioned.

1. What do the following verses tell us about Timothy, what others saw in him, his abilities and service for God?

- Acts 16.1 & 3

- Acts 17.14

- Acts 19.22

- Rom 16.21

2. What is the overall picture you get of Timothy from the verses in question 1.

Read Philippians 2.19-24

3. How does the picture of Timothy from these verses compare with what you noted in the last question?

4. What do you think Paul means when describing Timothy as being “genuinely concerned” for their welfare?

5. In our culture we often greet others by asking how they are? Do we expect people to give an honest answer? Would you really want them to?

6. Paul says that others were seeking their own interests (though not Timothy). What do you think he means by this?

7. Why was Timothy such a rarity? Do you think he would still be unusual in churches today?

8. How does what we see here of Timothy compare with what Paul had written in verses 4 to 11, including the example of Christ?

9. What does Paul mean by bringing our interests into line with Christ's? In what practical ways do you think we can do this?

Epaphroditus

In contrast to Timothy the only things we know about Epaphroditus from the Bible are in these few verses.

Read Philippians 2.25-30

10. Why had Epaphroditus turned up in Rome where Paul was?

11. What do Paul's familial descriptions of Timothy in verse 22 and Epaphroditus in verse 25 suggest about the ages and relationships between the three men?

12. What other words does Paul use to describe Epaphroditus in verse 25 and what do they tell us about the latter's work for the Lord?

13. We looked in study 2, question 2, at some of the things Paul had endured in the work of the gospel and often because of the gospel. What do we learn from these verses about what Epaphroditus had gone through? What about Timothy (see also Hebrews 13.23 and anything else you can think of)?

14. Why was Paul sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi and why would this make the latter less anxious?