

Series: Divine Joy

C.R. 3-4-18

“Friends in Ministry”

Text: Philippians 2: 19-24

Intro: For the next couple of Sunday’s we are going to look at two of the friends of Paul in the ministry. There is no way that we can be effective on our own. We need help. People you can count on are hard to find. It is very difficult in any walk of life to find people who are not in it for their own glory. Paul had a friend in Timothy. Let’s look this young man today, and the example he leaves for us.

1) An Example of True Service

- a. Timothy was Paul’s child in the faith and it seems that he was converted at the time of Paul’s first missionary visit to Lystra and Iconium.
- b. It is said that Paul may have recovered from his stoning at Lystra in the house of Timothy’s mother.
- c. Paul chose Timothy to be one of his companions on his second missionary journey, and he circumcised him to make him more acceptable to the Jews.
- d. They were together at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.
- e. He was with Paul during his long stay at Ephesus.
- f. The point of this is these two had weathered some storms together. They had fought some battles together.
- g. Paul knew because of experience that he could count on Timothy.
- h. Paul is saying “I can’t come, but Timothy can”.
- i. (v.20) Look at the commendation Paul gives Timothy.
- j. We must admit men who thought like Paul had to be rare. Paul is letting the church know that Timothy and I see eye to eye when it comes to the things of God.
- k. Phillips. “There may have been some who had the necessary talents, but they did not have the necessary time. There may have been some who had the time and the talents, but not the temperament.
- l. Timothy was spiritually gifted, and he was available.
- m. True Servants are ready, able and willing.

2) An Example of Total Service (v. 21)

- a. *John Phillips: “The curse of the local church today is lack of commitment. So few are willing to make an out-and-out commitment to a task. Our churches are full on Sunday mornings and empty the rest of the time. The same faithful few do nearly all the work. It is difficult to find anyone who will make a long-range commitment to do anything, whether it be to teach a Sunday school class, help in the nursery, or do visitation.”
- b. Too many want to go on a 7-day mission trip and call them selves full time missionaries.
- c. *Timothy understood that true service was total service.
- d. Barzilla said to David in 2 Samuel 19:36, “Thy servant will go a little way”.

- e. In Luke 9:59, 61 we hear one say “Suffer me first to go and bury my father,” and another said “Let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home.”
- f. The Lord rebuked them both.
- g. Timothy was loyal. He was an ambassador of Christ, not a fare the well kind of man.
- h. How can we say to the one who went all the way that we will go a little way?

3) An Example of Tested Service. (v.22-24)

- a. “You know the proof.” Timothy had been tested and the proof was there what kind of man that he was.
- b. Timothy could be trusted because he had been tested.
- c. His service had passed the test.
- d. Illustrate with life. We want a Doctor, Builder, etc... who has been proven.
- e. Paul could have hung a sign over his ministry that read Paul and Son, Ministers of the gospel.
- f. The word “served” here means “to serve as a bondman or to take up a slave’s life.”
- g. A popular local nightclub performer visited a pastor and announced that he had been saved and wanted to serve the Lord. “What should I do next?” he asked. “Well, I’d suggest you unite with a good church and start growing,” the pastor replied. “Is your wife a Christian?” “No, she isn’t,” the musician replied. “I hope to win her. But do I have to wait? I mean, I’d like to do something for God right now.” “No, you don’t have to wait to witness for the Lord,” explained the pastor. “Get busy in a church, and use your talents for Christ.” “But you don’t know who I am!” the man protested. “I’m a big performer—everybody knows me. I want to start my own organization, make records, and appear before big crowds!” “If you go too far too fast,” warned the pastor, “you may hurt yourself and your testimony. And the place to start winning people is right at home. God will open up places of service for you as He sees you are ready. Meanwhile, study the Bible and give yourself a chance to grow.” The man did not take the pastor’s counsel. Instead, he set up a big organization and started out on his own. His “success” lasted less than a year. Not only did he lose his testimony because he was not strong enough to carry the heavy burdens, but his constant traveling alienated him from his wife and family. He drifted into a fringe group and disappeared from public ministry, a broken and bankrupt man. “His branches went out farther than his roots went deep,” the pastor said. “When that happens, you eventually topple.”
- h. Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Joyful (Philippians): Even When Things Go Wrong, You Can Have Joy (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 88). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.