

February 17, 2008  
The Bridge Bible Fellowship  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Philippians 2:25-30

“From Heavenly-Minded to Earthly-Good” Part Four  
Human Mentors of Maturity

- I. Heavenly Motivation to Maturity – v. 12-13
- II. Heavenly Measure of Maturity – v. 14-16
- III. Heavenly Mindset to Maturity v. 17-18
- IV. Heavenly Mentors of Maturity v. 19-30**

A. Timothy - v. 19-24

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 25-30**

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_**

**a. No \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 25**

- “Epaphroditus” = “lovely” or “charming” or “handsome”
- “my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier...”

- 1) “brother”
- 2) “fellow worker”
- 3) “fellow soldier”
- 4) “messenger”
- 5) “minister”

**b. \_\_\_\_\_ mind regarding others more important than himself – v. 26**

“longing for you all” (cf. 1:8; James 4:5; 1 Pet. 2:2; Rom. 1:11; 1 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 1:4)

“distressed” (cf. Mt. 26:37; Mk. 14:33)

“you had heard that he was sick”

**c. \_\_\_\_\_ for interests of others, not self – v. 27, 28, 30**

“sick to the point of death”

“but God had mercy on him”

Note: why didn’t Paul just heal him? (cf. Acts 28:3; Gal. 4:13; 2 Cor. 12:9ff; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20)

“and not on him only but also on me, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.”

“close to death for the work of Christ”

“risking his life” = lit., “having gambled his life” (cf. Rom. 16:4; Rev. 12:11)

“to complete what was deficient in your service to me.” (cf. 1 Cor. 16:17; 2 Cor. 9:12; Col. 1:24)

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 29**

a. Receive him in the Lord with all joy (cf. Rom. 14:1; 15:7; 16:2)

b. Hold men like him in high regard (cf. 1 Sam. 26:21; Is. 43:4)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Jesus, Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus were **EXAMPLES** of Phil. 2:3-4. They didn't make **EXCUSES** they became **EXAMPLES**. What excuses do people make for not being humble, selfless, sacrificial servants? How will this passage help you not make those same excuses?
2. Why does sickness tend to make people selfish? How did Epaphroditus overcome this tendency? How can we overcome this tendency?
3. In what sense are you right now a “fellow worker” in the gospel? In what sense are you a “fellow soldier?” In what sense are you a “minister?”
4. Epaphroditus was willing to “risk his life” for the work of God's Kingdom. How do the following passages help us have that same mind? (Acts 20:24; Rom. 6:3-11; 14:7-9; 2 Cor. 11:23-38; 12:9f; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:20f; 2 Tim. 4:5-8; 1 Peter 4:12f; Rev. 2:10; 6:9-11; 12:11; ch. 21-22)
5. Are you currently someone who can be a “mentor” to others of the things in Philippians 2? Why or why not? If not, please seek someone to mentor you. If you are, please seek out a younger believer to mentor so we can have a unified church striving together for the faith of the Gospel!