

Sermon Handout

Faithful Servants of God

Philippians 2:19-30

I. St. Paul himself

- a. Concerned about the well-being of the Philippian Christians vv. 12-16a
- b. Willing to become part of the sacrifice for their sakes v. 17a
 - While not likely, his death at Rome was a possibility. *cf.* II Tim 4:6-8
- c. Paul rejoices with them in the triumphant work of Jesus vv. 16b-18

II. Appraisal of Timothy

- a. Trusts him as a reliable messenger v. 19
- b. He is one who cares about their spiritual condition vv. 20-21
 - Contrary to his own interests *cf.* II Tim 2:4
- c. He is a proven man; his behavior has passed the tests of time v. 22
- d. Paul's timing of Timothy's trip vv. 23-24
 - i. So Paul's fate can be reported to Philippi
 - ii. Paul states his expectation of release (*cf.* Acts 28:30-31; Phil 22)

III. Appraisal of Epaphroditus

- a. Will be sent immediately, carrying the letter v. 25a
- b. His character described by St. Paul
 - i. "my brother & co-laborer" (trusted by Paul)
 - ii. "my fellow soldier" *cf.* II Tim 2:3-4
 - iii. "your messenger" (trusted by the Philippians)
 - 1. Ministered to Paul v. 25
 - 2. Substituted for their own presence v. 30 *cf.* 4:18
 - iv. Full of care for his brothers in Philippi v. 2
 - v. His illness (sorrow vs. joy) vv. 27-30
 - Caring for one another
 - Sorrow for sorrow; joy for joy

These sketches illustrate for us the characteristics all Christians should strive for as representatives of the Kingdom of Jesus on earth. See Mt 5:16