



'Back to Basics for Believers Series'

Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians

Message 11 – An Edifying Example (1) Philippians 2:17 –24

Paul is continuing in his theme of holding up worthy examples, examples that have the mind of Christ. These verses consider Timothy, and we can see the following things:

- 1. Timothy was a Young Man who Served Willingly** - The first aspect of the example of Timothy, is that he was willing to serve, even if that meant serving in second place. Timothy stands out, this faithful companion and co-worker, who he can send as soon as he can. Throughout the life of Timothy, it becomes very clear that actually, Timothy is willing to sacrifice to serve. How far does our desire and motivation lead us? For we have been saved to serve.
- 2. Timothy had a Kindred Spirit** – A Brotherly Spirit in Caring for Others - Timothy shared a characteristic with Paul, that being his brotherly spirit in being concerned for others. Timothy cared for the believers, the verse says his heart naturally cared (*gnesios*). His care arose deep from within, it was a genuine and sincere care, that emulated the concern of Christ. It was a true concern. Very often it is so sad when churches are beset by problems, usually of a secondary nature, that they divert time, energy, and concern away from where it should be focused. The major priority being to reach the lost with the gospel. Timothy was not a hindrance to the work of the gospel, because his attitude was such, that it mirrored his Lord's.
- 3. Timothy was willing to Deny Himself** - Timothy was willing to deny himself – that is that he was willing to be spent and be spent for Christ. Timothy did not seek his own ends, his own things. He denied himself. He did not fall into the trap as so many, so often, do! His primary concern was for the mission and truth of Christ to be proclaimed. His concern was for the welfare of the church, and more importantly, the individuals who made it up. We ultimately live either Philippians 1:21 or Philippians 2:21.
- 4. Timothy was willing to be a Disciple** - Timothy was willing to learn, to be second, that he may follow. His desire was not to have the first place, but he was content to serve the Lord. Prove yourself first in the life of the church. If you are faithful in the small things, then it could be that the Lord will open something larger for you later. Be faithful now! Paul gave time for Timothy to establish himself spiritually, before then, beginning to work with him. However, he was then sent, and willing to be sent. Timothy was closely connected to Paul in ministering to the churches. Due to spending so much time with Paul, and learning from him, Paul has no hesitation in sending him. The reality is that Timothy is held forth as an example to us. This godly young man embodied the types of attitudes that should be present in our own lives. Even though Paul is pointing us to Timothy, he is pointing us to the attitude of Christ.



Penzance Baptist Church
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs