

Philippians 2:25-30

- 1) Paul explains his change of plans, to send Epaphroditus instead of Timothy—2:25-28
  - a) The difficult pronunciation of his name
    - i) Often spoken, e-PAPH-ro-DI-tus
    - ii) The Greek shows, ep-af-ROD-itos
  - b) Paul reveals the need to send a Gentile with a pagan name—2:25a <sup>25</sup> *But I considered* (cf. 2:3, 6) *it necessary to send* [*pempo*] *to you<sup>pl</sup> Epaphroditus*, (cf. 2:19)
  - c) Paul endorses Epaphroditus by explaining their mutually close relationship—2:25b
    - i) *my brother and fellow-worker* [*sunergos*] *and fellow-soldier* [*sustratiotes*],
  - d) Paul reminds the Philippian congregation of Epaphroditus' submissive relationship with them—2:25c
    - i) *but your<sup>pl</sup> messenger* [*apostolos*] *and minister* [*leitourgos*] *to my need*;  
(1) cf. 4:14-18 for what this ministry was
    - ii) The congregation authorized his ministry; he was not an independent.
  - e) Paul explains the practical reason why he is sending Epaphroditus at this time—2:26-27
    - i) His affection and anguish—<sup>26</sup> *since he has been longing for you<sup>pl</sup> all and was distressed* (cf. Matt. 26:37)  
(1) Why? *because you<sup>pl</sup> heard that he was sick.*
    - ii) His experiencing God's mercy—<sup>27</sup> *For indeed he was sick to the point of death*,  
(1) *but God had mercy on him*,  
(2) *and not only* (had mercy) *on him but also on me*,  
(a) *so that I should not have sorrow upon* (in addition to) *sorrow.*  
(3) Paul apparently did not exercise a gift of healing to restore Epaphroditus.
  - f) Paul shows no hesitation in sending Epaphroditus—2:28 <sup>28</sup> *Therefore I have sent* [*pempo*] *him the more eagerly*
    - Why?
      - i) With a view toward the Philippians—*so that when you<sup>pl</sup> see him again you<sup>pl</sup> may rejoice*
      - ii) With a view toward Paul—*and* (so that) *I* (emphatic) *may be relieved* (without sorrow/anxiety) [*alupoteros*].
- 2) Paul further instructs them in light of Epaphroditus' character and self-sacrificing service—2:29-30 <sup>29</sup> *Therefore ...*
  - a) Paul gives them two commands
    - i) *welcome him in the Lord with all delight*,
    - ii) *and hold such men in high honor*,
  - b) Why are these commands necessary?
    - i) Willing to die—<sup>30</sup> *because for the work* [*ergon*] *of Christ he came close to death*,
    - ii) Knowingly exposed himself to danger—*showing disregard*) *for his life*  
(1) *in order that he may complete what is lacking in your service* [*leitourgia*] *to me.* (this is not a rebuke of the congregation)