

Philippians 2:19-30

- 1:12-26 - Paul gives information about his situation.
- 1:27-2:18 - Paul addresses the Philippians situation.
- 2:19-30 - Paul discusses the upcoming visits to Philippi
 - 2:19-23 - Timothy's visit
 - 2:24 - Paul's own personal visit
 - 2:25-30 - Epaphroditus's return
 (To keep these verses in context it is important to recognize the two time frames:

1) When Paul writes the letter all three "visits" are in the future

2) But, when the Philippians read the letter Timothy's visit will have already occurred and Paul's and Epaphroditus' visit are yet in the future.)

Anticipated order of events:

1. Epaphroditus is returning to Philippi with the letter to the Philippians
2. Timothy will leave Rome to visit Philippi after it is clear that Paul will be released
3. Timothy will return to Rome with a report from Philippi
4. Paul will eventually visit Philippi

The arrival of the letter will encourage and correct the Philippians.

Timothy will have a follow up visit and report back to Paul concerning the Philippians' progress

Paul will then visit the church that has made corrections and is being an effective witness.

This letter to the Philippians also serves as a commendation/reference letter for both Epaphroditus and Timothy (2:19-22). Both men are to be received and both are to serve as models of selfless service for the Philippians to imitate.

Philippians 2:19 - "I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you."

1679	1161	1722	2962	2424	5095	5030	3992	4771	2443	2504
Elpizō	de	en	kyriō	Iēsou	Timotheon	tacheōs	pempsai	hymīn	hina	kagō
19 Ἐλπίζω	δὲ	ἐν	κυρίῳ	Ἰησοῦ	, Τιμόθεον	ταχέως	πέμψαι	ὑμῖν	, ἵνα	καγὼ
I hope	moreover	in	[the] Lord	Jesus	Timothy	soon	to send	to you	that	I also
V-PIA-1S	Conj	Prep	N-DMS	N-DMS	N-AMS	Adv	V-ANA	PPro-D2P	Conj	PPro-S1C

2174	1097	3588	4012	4771
eupsychō	gnous	ta	peri	hymōn
εὐψυχῶ	, γνοὺς	τὰ	περὶ	ὑμῶν .
might be of good courage	having known	the things	concerning	you
V-PSA-1S	V-APA-NMS	Art-ANP	Prep	PPro-G2P

- Timothy will visit Philippi and see the positive effect Paul's letter has had on the church.
- Timothy will report the cheerful news to Paul when Timothy returns to Rome.

- Note the Greek for “the things concerning you” is interesting because it is an example of Paul’s admonition in 2:4, “look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” The Greek **ta peri humon** can be translated “your affairs” and in any translation is Paul sending Timothy because Paul is concerned about the Philippians and is “looking to their interests, not merely his own.”
 - This **ta peri humon** was already used in 1:27
 - This **ta peri humon** is also found again in 2:20
 - **ta peri humon** is Paul being concerned NOT with the Philippians personal/secular affairs, but with their progress in the growth and in the advancement of the Gospel
- Paul’s “hope” (**elpizo**) of sending Timothy is a certainty because:
 - The Greek word means “confidence, expect, anticipate, trust”, and is not like the English hanging-on-to-the-end-of-the-rope hope
 - Paul’s “hope” here is “hope in Christ Jesus” which is solid
 - In 2:24 is written as a certainty
 - “Hope” used in Paul’s travel plans: 1 Cor. 16:7; Romans 15:24; Philemon 22; 1 Timothy 3:14

Philippians 2:20 - “For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.”

3762	1063	2192	2473	3748	1104	3588	4012	4771	3309
oudena	gar	echō	isopsychon	hostis	gnēsios	ta	peri	hymōn	merimnēsei
20 οὐδένα	γὰρ	ἔχω	ἰσόψυχον	, ὅστις	γνησίως	τὰ	περὶ	ὑμῶν	μεριμνήσει
no one	indeed	I have	like-minded	who	genuinely	the things	relative to	you	will care for
Adj-AMS	Conj	V-PIA-1S	Adj-AMS	RelPro-NMS	Adv	Art-ANP	Prep	PPro-G2P	V-FIA-3S

- Timothy is “like-souled” or “like-minded” with Paul. This is an example of Paul’s request to the Philippians in 2:2 and Jesus example in 2:5.
- Paul’s interests are in Christ’s business, so he is interested in the Philippians progress in their development of pursuing their interest in Christ’s business. Timothy has developed this

Philippians 2:21 - “For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

- Paul presents a contrast between Timothy and some of the other ministers who are self-interested.
- Note the comparison for being “like-minded”:
 - Own Interest vs. Jesus Christ’s Interests
 - So, this is not about ministers being concerned about other people’s interests, but about ministers being concerned about other people’s growth and productivity towards Jesus Christ’s interests
- Who are these self-seeking ministers and Christians?
 - Paul identifies them as “they all”?
 - Are they the Romans?
 - Are they Paul’s available ministry team (assuming he has already sent off Luke and Aristarchus)?
 - Are they others in Philippi?
 - The answer might be two-fold and already in the text:

- Many believers in Rome: Philippians 1:15, 17
- Philippians who are struggling with their own ambitions in ministry: Philippians 2:3-4 and, basically, the underlying theme of the letter.

Philippians 2:22 - “But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.”

3588	1161	1382	846	1097	3754	5613	3962	5043	4862	1473
tēn	de	dokimēn	autou	ginōskete	hoti	hōs	patri	teknon	syn	emoi
22	τὴν	δὲ	δοκιμὴν	αὐτοῦ	γινώσκετε	,	ὅτι	,	ὡς	πατρὶ
–	but	[the] proof	of him	you know	that	as	a father [with]	a child	with	me
Art-AFS	Conj	N-AFS	PPro-GM3S	V-PIA-2P	Conj	Adv	N-DMS	N-NNS	Prep	PPro-D1S

1398	1519	3588	2098
edouleusen	eis	to	euangelion
ἔδουλευσεν	,	εἰς	τὸ
he served		for	the
V-AIA-3S	Prep	Art-ANS	N-ANS

- Paul appeals to the Philippians’ own experience with Timothy and assumes they will have the same positive conclusion as he has presented from his experience with Timothy.
- “Proven worth” is from **dokimen** and means “a trial, proof; tried, approved character”
 - 2 Corinthians 2:9; 8:2; 9:13; 13:3
 - Romans 5:4, 5
- Paul is likely referring to Timothy’s proven commitment to the Lord’s interests, and not merely to “good character” or a “nice, honest man.”

Philippians 2:23 - “I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,”

3778	3303	3767	1679	3992	5613	302	872	3588	4012	1473			
Touton	men	oun	elpizō	pempesai	hōs	an	aphidō	ta	peri	eme			
23	Τοῦτον	μὲν	οὖν	ἐλπίζω	πέμψαι	,	ὡς	ἂν	ἀφίδω	τὰ	περὶ	ἐμὲ	,
	Him	indeed	therefore	I hope	to send		when	anyhow	I shall have seen	the things	concerning	me	
	DPro-AMS	Prtcl	Conj	V-PIA-1S	V-ANA		Adv	Prtcl	V-ASA-1S	Art-ANP	Prep	PPro-A1S	

1824

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ἐξαυτῆς .

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- Back to Paul’s point, he is going to send Timothy after Epaphroditus is sent with the letter.
- Timothy will be doing two things with his visit to Philippi:
 - Gathering information for Paul concerning the Philippians growth and progress after having read Paul’s letter
 - Providing information concerning Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 2:24 - “and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.”

3982	1161	1722	2962	3754	2532	846	5030	2064		
pepoitha	de	en	kyriō	hoti	kai	autos	tacheōs	eileusomai		
24	πέποιθα	δὲ	ἐν	κυρίῳ	,	ὅτι	καὶ	αὐτὸς	ταχέως	ἐλεύσομαι
	I am persuaded	moreover	in	[the] Lord		that	also	myself	soon	I will come
	V-RIA-1S	Conj	Prep	N-DMS		Conj	Conj	PPro-NM3S	Adv	V-FIM-1S

- Paul fully expects to be released from prison.

Philippians 2:25 - “I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,”

- 2:25-27 are from Epaphroditus’ perspective: Epaphroditus wants to return to the Philippian church because he wants to let them know he is fine
- 2:28-30 are from Paul’s perspective: Paul wants to relieve the Philippians of any concern or worry about Epaphroditus. Paul wants to calm their fears and extinguish their sorrows.
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Philippians 2:26 - “for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.”

Philippians 2:27 - "Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow."

Philippians 2:28 - "I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious."

Philippians 2:29 - "So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,"

- Paul gives Epaphroditus a note of recommendation. Why? Don't they already know him? Didn't they already send him to represent them? Didn't he bring money to Paul from the Philippians? Is he not one of the best they have?
 - It may be that Epaphroditus is on one side or the other of the division. In that case Paul is urging the resistance or the opposition party to realize Epaphroditus has Paul's support and that in an effort to begin the unification process they could start by accepting Epaphroditus.
 - It may be that Epaphroditus could be seen as having failed in his mission the Philippians sent him on. One, he got sick. Two, he didn't help Paul, but instead became a concern for Paul. Three, he didn't represent the church, but instead became a burden for the church. In this case Paul's words are fully rejecting any of the above. Epaphroditus is a hero that nearly died FULFILLING the mission!

Philippians 2:30 - "for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me."