Paul’s Likeminded Man

Philippians 2:19-24

Introduction:

I. Authentic Service – 2:19-20

A. Timothy’s Appointment – 2:19

“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send ﻿﻿Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your ﻿﻿state.”

1. Early Years

a. A Sheltered Home -

Timothy was born to a Jewish mother and a Greek father (Acts 16:1). We don’t hear anything about his Father, so he may have died early on. Tim was raised by his Mother, Eunice and Grand-mother, Lois. (II Tim.1:5) They taught him the O.T. Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15)

b. A Delicate Health –

"Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and your often infirmities" (1 Tim. 5:23). Note that he says "a little"! {Use a teaspoon}

c. His Sensitive Nature –

"let no man despise your youth" (1 Timothy 4:12)

Paul may have thought that some older men might look down on his youth and inexperience. By his sensitive nature Timothy might be offended.

2. Joining Paul.

Apparently he met Paul on his 1st missionary trip. Paul calls him “My own son in the faith” (1 Timothy 2:1). On the 2nd trip Paul learned that Tim. was well-spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to take Timothy with him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were there. Later on, he refused to circumcise Titus, a Gentile.

[Paul’s second missionary trip is on the screen!] The team went westward to Troas and then to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth. So, Timothy was with Paul at Philippi.

Paul wrote the Thess. epistles while he was at Corinth on the 2nd trip. Though it is not mentioned in Acts, we learn in I Thess. 3:1-2 that Paul sent Tim. back to Thess. (from Athens) “to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith.” As we read this passage in Philippians, Tim is with Paul in prison in Rome.

B. Timothy’s Acceptance – 2:20

“For I have no one ﻿﻿like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.”

1. Timothy had a Soul-Desire to Care for People.

ἰσόψυχον means “equal-soul” - Paul had no one who was equal to Timothy. (Or no one who cared as Paul did.)

2. Timothy Used that Gift.

 He sincerely cared for people, especially the Philippians

II. Absolute Service – 2:21

“For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.”

One of the major problems in the local church today is a lack of commitment, so few are willing to make an out and out commitment to a task. The same faithful few do all of the work.

This situation may be due to several things:

1. The Church is Not Recruiting Well - Members may not realize that opportunities are available.

2. The Church is Not Training Members Well - Members feel that they are not equipped to do the task.

3. Or, it could be that Some Members are in the “me first” Category - Jesus found some “me first” people.

Luke 9:59

“Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

This seems rather harsh. Many feel that his father was not yet dead, but was sick.

“And another also said, “Lord, ﻿﻿I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.”

This would probably have involved a farewell banquet of several days. But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is ﻿﻿fit for the kingdom of God.” Timothy did not have a “me first” attitude.

III. Approved Service – 2:22-24

A. Why Paul Was Sending Him – 2:22

“But you know his proven character, ﻿﻿that as a son *his* father he served with me in the gospel.”

Timothy’s character had been tested and proven to be genuine. He worked with Paul as a son with his father.

Illustration: My two older brothers worked with my father in his construction business for a while. They would go off to work together and when they were at home they would talk about their jobs. My father enjoyed that relationship.

Timothy was Paul’s son, spiritually. They worked as slaves (ἐδούλευσεν) together. They were not slaves of each other, but of the Lord. They were working in the Gospel. Paul says that the Philippians knew about this characteristic of Timothy He must have exhibited it at Philippi. Timothy’s service had passed the test!

B. When Paul Was Sending Him – 2:23-24

1. Anticipation of Definite News Soon – 2:23

“Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.”

 “How it goes with me” refers to his trial before Caesar. His 2 years is about up. They have to do something soon. We now know that Paul was released, but we don’t know exactly how that fits with the timeline of Philippians.

Because of this condition, we don’t really know whether Timothy was sent or not. It really doesn’t matter. We have the testimony of Paul concerning Timothy.

His example of a human, humble man is the same line as Jesus in the first half of this chapter. Next he will give another example of human humility, Epaphroditus.

2. Anticipation of Dramatic News Soon – 2:24

“But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.”

This news would certainly be welcomed by the church. It would seem that Paul had some word from the Lord that his time was not up quite yet. We know that he was released and traveled extensively. He wrote the Epistle to Titus and I Timothy (Timothy was, at that time, pastor in Ephesus) and was later re-incarcerated, wrote II Timothy and beheaded for the Gospel’sake.