

BACKGROUND PASSAGE(S): Philippians 2:25-30.

KEY VERSE(s): – *Philippians 2:25 - Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;*

From Paul’s description of Epaphroditus we know 3 things concerning his relationship with Paul and 2 things concerning his role with the church at Philippi.

3 are personal to Paul – as he uses the word “**my**”. (Describe each one of these titles, also answer why these are important to Paul in his ministry?)

Brother –

Fellow worker –

Fellow soldier -

Discuss the importance that each of these titles hold for you as a member of the body of Christ as you think about those you serve alongside.

2 are directed at the church at Philippi – as Paul uses the word “**your**”. (What is meant by the following roles that Epaphroditus has been given as it pertains to the church and to Paul.)

Messenger –

Minister –

What are some specific things that we can learn about Epaphroditus and Paul from the following passage of Scripture?

Philippians 2:26-30 - since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, ^[a]not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

What is your “take-away” from this week’s study and how can it be applied to your daily walk with Christ?

Perhaps the most common error people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Always begin each time of Bible study with prayer, asking God to help you understand what you are reading correctly.

1) Observation

What does the passage say?

Read the passage then look back to see what the passage is saying. Look for repeated words, key phrases, and cross-references. Think about questions that you have after reading. Allow your curiosity to lead you further in understanding.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? What else do you notice?

What other questions arise from the passage?

2) Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

After observing what was said in the text, interpretation seeks to understand what God, through the book's author, is seeking to communicate through this text. Context is crucial to determining the meaning. Outside resources like Bible dictionaries and commentaries can help at this point.

What is the context? Why is the author bringing this up?

What is God saying through this passage?

What is the main point of this passage?

3) Application

How do I need to respond?

It's easy to read through passages, especially those familiar to us, without taking time to stop and think about how we can practically apply the truths we studied.

How should I live my life in light of this passage?

How does this truth compel me to be transformed?

What does it look like to put this into practice?

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

-James 1:22-25 (NKJV)