



*RCC Phoenix – 4.25.21 – Philippians (Week 10)*

1. Friends Change Our \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 2:17-18 NLT**

But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

Paul is contemplating losing his \_\_\_\_\_ for the Gospel.

**Philippians 2:19-24 NLT**

If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ completely changes when he thinks of Timothy.

It's easy to be \_\_\_\_\_ or not see any way out of a situation when we are isolated. But a true friend can help us change our outlook.

In verse 17, Paul is aware of the realistic idea that he may die a martyr. But in verse 24, he is focused on \_\_\_\_\_ so he can see the Philippian believers again.

The people in the Bible are \_\_\_\_\_ not characters from a fiction novel. They have moments when they waiver between despair and confidence... just like \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to be the kind of friends who:

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Up

**Proverbs 18:24 NLT**

“There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT**

“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Up

**Job 6:14 ESV**

“He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.”

**Proverbs 17:7 ESV**

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Up

**Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV**

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

**Proverbs 27:17 NLT**

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

D. \_\_\_\_\_ Up

**Proverbs 27:5-6 NLT**

“An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.”

Paul identifies Timothy as this type of friend.

**Philippians 2:20-22 NLT**

“I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. But you know how Timothy has proved himself...”

*Coffman’s Commentaries on the Bible:*

The word translated “prove” is used of gold and silver that had been tested and could be accepted as current coin.

*Manhattan Gold & Silver Company:*

“A fire assay—or melt test—is the most \_\_\_\_\_ precious metal assay. In fact, it’s accurate between one part per thousand and one part per ten-thousand. We recommend the fire assay process, because it is the most accurate and the best way to determine the amount and \_\_\_\_\_ of precious metals.”

Timothy had been through the \_\_\_\_\_ with Paul. Every church in that region knew that Timothy had been refined in tough times, kept his faith and remained \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul and the Gospel.

This is the type of friend we need to \_\_\_\_\_ and the type of friend we need to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Proverbs 12:26 NIV**

“The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

## 2. Friends \_\_\_\_\_ Well

### Philippians 2:25-30 NLT

Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. Welcome him in the Lord's love and with great joy and give him the honor that people like him deserve. For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.

Epaphroditus was sent by the church in Philippi to deliver \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul.

Epaphroditus was also sent to help Paul do the work of the \_\_\_\_\_.

While traveling from Philippi to Paul's prison, Epaphroditus became very \_\_\_\_\_ and almost died.

When Epaphroditus agreed to deliver the gifts to Paul, he fully \_\_\_\_\_ to do whatever it took to support the work of the Gospel.

He realized he was \_\_\_\_\_ a group of people not just himself.

We often ignore the Godly and Biblical principle of \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul and his friends were "like-minded" meaning they were unified in:

- \_\_\_\_\_ – The Gospel of Jesus Christ was their foundation
- \_\_\_\_\_ – To serve in their assignment and take the Gospel to the Gentile World
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Honor God, live out Jesus commands and follow the Holy Spirit's direction
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Fulfilling the Great Commission

Being a good friend is also being a good \_\_\_\_\_.

### John 15:9-15 NLT

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

Followers of Jesus Christ should \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in the area of friendship.