



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Sending Timothy

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The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians (60-62 A.D.), Paul is imprisoned (one of four Prison Letters, the others being Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon) in Rome addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Philippi, the first founded by Paul in Europe. In this letter, Paul, having a fondness for the people of the church of Philippi, because of their faithfulness and generous nature, wanted to thank them for their gifts, letting them know why he was returning Epaphroditus to them, sharing his situation in prison, urging unity in church, and warning them against false teachers. While false doctrine had started to plague many of the churches, he wanted to provide encouragement for practical living and support for sound doctrine. While much of the letter deals with spiritual growth, the tone throughout is that there is joy in Christ and Paul rejoices in Christ being proclaimed regardless of his circumstance and that they also must conduct their lives, strive and suffer in and for Christ. Paul now sends Timothy to the Philippian Church. (Php 2:19-24 NASB)

“But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.” (2:19-20)

Timothy was Paul’s spiritual son. Timothy was his helper and companion. Paul schooled Timothy for a number of years and trusted none more than Timothy. Timothy was like Paul in his thoughts, in his passion and in his spirit and love for the church. Timothy was humble, self sacrificing for others and had a passion to live and serve Christ. Paul and Timothy were like-minded and found joy and hope in Christ Jesus. Paul loved the Philippian church and wanted to send his best, Timothy, because Paul understood the motives of others.

“For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.” (2:21-24)

“... they all seek after their own interests...” Paul understood that many were selfishly, seeking their own glory and not Christ’s glory. However, Paul again shares his like-mindedness of Timothy and his proven fruit of love and service in sharing the gospel and their relationship similar to a son serving his father. For these reasons, Paul hoped that he would be able to send Timothy immediately and for Timothy to share of Paul’s situation in prison. While Paul hoped that he would be released from prison and could travel to see and fellowship with them, he understood all was in the will and hand of the Lord in whom he trusted and found joy.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you have a Timothy in your life that is like-minded for Christ? Are you a Timothy to a fellow believer?
- Would your words and deeds reflect a nature or motive that appears selfish and seeking your own glory or one that is humble, serving others and seeking the will of Christ?
- While you may hope that you will be released from the current situation or prison, do you put your trust in the Lord and find joy serving Him where He places you?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44