

D3: The Ministry (Paul, Timothy & Epaphroditus) Philippians 2:25-30 (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

The probable order of events concerning Epaphroditus, Paul and the Philippians:

- The Philippians desired to minister to Paul while he was in prison, 2:30b.
- Epaphroditus was their “apostle” and minister to fulfill that ministry to Paul, 2:25b, 30b.
- While with Paul, Epaphroditus became to Paul his “brother, fellow-worker, and fellow-soldier” in the work of Christ, 2:25a.
- Epaphroditus risked his life as he tried to complete his ministry to Paul and became sick, 2:26b, 30b.
- Epaphroditus nearly died in or from his ministry to Paul, 2:27a, 30a.
- The Philippians grew concerned when they heard Epaphroditus was sick and was not able to minister to Paul, 2:26b.
- Epaphroditus longed for the Philippians and was distressed that he caused them concern, 2:26.
- Paul became anxious for the Philippians, 2:28b.
- God had mercy on Epaphroditus (and Paul!) in that Epaphroditus recovered, 2:27b.
- Paul eagerly sent Epaphroditus back to bring joy to the Philippians, 2:28, 25.
- The Philippians were to receive Epaphroditus back early with all joy, 2:29a.
- The Philippians were to hold men like him in high regard even though his ministry objective was not completed, 2:29-30.

5 gospel ministry observations from Philippians 2:25-30:

1. *A servant in gospel ministry must fulfill many roles, 2:25.*

- ➔ Brother.
- ➔ Fellow-worker.
- ➔ Fellow-soldier.
- ➔ “Apostle”.
- ➔ Minister.

2. *A servant in gospel ministry is burdened when his ministry remains undone, 2:26.*

3. *A servant in gospel ministry may risk his life for the gospel, 2:27, 30.*

4. *Gospel ministry is full of mutual concern and love, 2:26, 28.*

5. *Gospel ministry esteems men of courage and sacrifice above task completion, 2:29-30.*