

## Philippians 2.19-30

### 19

BGT Ἐλπίζω δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Τιμόθεον ταχέως πέμψαι ὑμῖν, ἵνα καὶ γὰρ εὐψυχῶ γνοῦς τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν.

NET Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be encouraged by hearing news about you.

NRS I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you.

KJV But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

DRA And I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy unto you shortly, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know the things concerning you.

NAU 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.

NIV I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.

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.

MSG I plan (according to Jesus' plan) to send Timothy to you very soon so he can bring back all the news of you he can gather. Oh, how that will do my heart good!

- Note the use of εὐψυχῶ, the only instance of this word in both the LXX and NT.

### 20

BGT οὐδένα γὰρ ἔχω ἰσόψυχον, ὅστις γνησίως τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν μεριμνήσει.

NET For there is no one here like him who will readily demonstrate his deep concern for you.

NRS I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

KJV For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

DRA For I have no man so of the same mind, who with sincere affection is solicitous for you.

NAU For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

NIV I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.

NLT I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare.

MSG I have no one quite like Timothy. He is loyal, and genuinely concerned for you.

- Note the use of ἰσόψυχον. This is a term used in “friendship” language (and works euphoniously with εὐψυχῶ of the previous verse).

**21**  
BGT οἱ πάντες γὰρ τὰ ἑαυτῶν ζητοῦσιν, οὐ τὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.  
NET Others are busy with their own concerns, not those of Jesus Christ.  
NRS All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.  
KJV For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.  
DRA For all seek the things that are their own not the things that are Jesus Christ's.  
NAU For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.  
NIV For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.  
NLT All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ.  
MSG Most people around here are looking out for themselves, with little concern for the things of Jesus.

- Who are “all of them” (οἱ πάντες)?
- Note how this verse works in relation to 2:4.

**22**  
BGT τὴν δὲ δοκιμὴν αὐτοῦ γινώσκετε, ὅτι ὡς πατρὶ τέκνον σὺν ἐμοὶ ἐδούλευσεν εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον.  
NET But you know his qualifications, that like a son working with his father, he served with me in advancing the gospel.  
NRS But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.  
KJV But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.  
DRA Now know ye the proof of him: that as a son with the father, so hath he served with me in the gospel.  
NAU But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.  
NIV But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.  
NLT But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News.  
MSG But you know yourselves that Timothy's the real thing. He's been a devoted son to me as together we've delivered the Message.

**23**

BGT τοῦτον μὲν οὖν ἐλπίζω πέμψαι ὡς ἂν ἀφίδω τὰ περὶ ἐμὲ ἐξαυτῆς·  
NET So I hope to send him as soon as I know more about my situation,  
NRS I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me;  
KJV Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.  
DRA Him therefore I hope to send unto you immediately: so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.  
NAU Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;  
NIV I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.  
NLT I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here.  
MSG As soon as I see how things are going to fall out for me here, I plan to send him off.

**24**

BGT πέποιθα δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ ὅτι καὶ αὐτὸς ταχέως ἐλεύσομαι.  
NET though I am confident in the Lord that I too will be coming to see you soon.  
NRS and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.  
KJV But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.  
DRA And I trust in the Lord that I myself also shall come to you shortly.  
NAU and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.  
NIV And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.  
NLT And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.  
MSG And then I'm hoping and praying to be right on his heels.

- Note the other things Paul is confident about in 1:6 and 1:25 (and contrast with 3:3f.).

**25**

BGT Ἀναγκαῖον δὲ ἠγησάμην Ἐπαφρόδιτον τὸν ἀδελφὸν καὶ συνεργὸν καὶ συστρατιώτην μου, ὑμῶν δὲ ἀπόστολον καὶ λειτουργὸν τῆς  
 NET χρείας μου, πέμψαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς,  
 NET But for now I have considered it necessary to send Epaphroditus to you. For he is my brother, coworker and fellow soldier, and your messenger  
 and minister to me in my need.  
 NRS Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus-- my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need;  
 KJV Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he  
 that ministered to my wants.  
 DRA But I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow labourer and fellow soldier, but your apostle: and he that  
 hath ministered to my wants.  
 NAU But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and  
 minister to my need;  
 NIV But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom  
 you sent to take care of my needs.  
 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.  
 MSG But for right now, I'm dispatching Epaphroditus, my good friend and companion in my work. You sent him to help me out; now I'm sending him  
 to help you out.

- Note the language Paul uses to describe Epaphroditus. They are terms used in friendship language establishing the bond between Paul and Epaphroditus. Why is Paul working so hard to commend Epaphroditus?
- It is rather remarkable that Paul identifies Epaphroditus as an ἀπόστολον, because in every other instance Paul uses it to describe himself or the original group of “apostles.”
- λειτουργὸν is another unusual term that elsewhere Paul applies to himself.

**26**

BGT ἐπειδὴ ἐπιποθῶν ἦν πάντας ὑμᾶς καὶ ἀδημονῶν, διότι ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἠσθένησεν.  
 NET Indeed, he greatly missed all of you and was distressed because you heard that he had been ill.  
 NRS for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.  
 KJV For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.  
 DRA For indeed he longed after you all: and was sad, for that you had heard that he was sick.  
 NAU because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.  
 NIV For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.  
 NLT I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill.  
 MSG He has been wanting in the worst way to get back with you. Especially since recovering from the illness you heard about, he's been wanting to  
 get back and reassure you that he is just fine.

27

BGT καὶ γὰρ ἡσθένησεν παραπλήσιον θανάτῳ· ἀλλὰ ὁ θεὸς ἠλέησεν αὐτόν, οὐκ αὐτὸν δὲ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐμέ, ἵνα μὴ λύπην ἐπὶ λύπην σχῶ.

NET In fact he became so ill that he nearly died. But God showed mercy to him--and not to him only, but also to me--so that I would not have grief on top of grief.

NRS He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

KJV For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

DRA For indeed he was sick, nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him. And not only on him, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

NAU For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

NIV Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

NLT 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.

MSG He nearly died, as you know, but God had mercy on him. And not only on him--he had mercy on me, too. His death would have been one huge grief piled on top of all the others.

28

BGT σπουδαιοτέρως οὖν ἔπεμψα αὐτόν, ἵνα ἰδόντες αὐτόν πάλιν χαρῆτε καὶ γὰρ ἄλυπότερος ᾶ.

NET Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you can rejoice and I can be free from anxiety.

NRS I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.

KJV I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

DRA Therefore, I sent him the more speedily: that seeing him again, you may rejoice, and I may be without sorrow.

NAU Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you.

NIV Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety.

NLT 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.

MSG So you can see why I'm so delighted to send him on to you. When you see him again, hale and hearty, how you'll rejoice and how relieved I'll be.

- Note the connection in the Greek of ἄλυπότερος with the λύπην he mentions in the previous verse.

**29**

BGT προσδέχεσθε οὖν αὐτὸν ἐν κυρίῳ μετὰ πάσης χαρᾶς καὶ τοὺς τοιούτους ἐντίμους ἔχετε,  
 NET So welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him,  
 NRS Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people,  
 KJV Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:  
 DRA Receive him therefore with all joy in the Lord: and treat with honour such as he is.  
 NAU Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard;  
 NIV Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him,  
 NLT Welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve.  
 MSG Give him a grand welcome, a joyful embrace! People like him deserve the best you can give.

**30**

BGT ὅτι διὰ τὸ ἔργον Χριστοῦ μέχρι θανάτου ἠγγισεν παραβολευσάμενος τῇ ψυχῇ, ἵνα ἀναπληρώσῃ τὸ ὑμῶν ὑστέρημα τῆς πρὸς με  
 λειτουργίας.  
 NET since it was because of the work of Christ that he almost died. He risked his life so that he could make up for your inability to serve me.  
 NRS because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.  
 KJV Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.  
 DRA Because for the work of Christ he came to the point of death: delivering his life, that he might fulfil that which on your part was wanting towards my service.  
 NAU because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.  
 NIV because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.  
 NLT 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.  
 MSG Remember the ministry to me that you started but weren't able to complete? Well, in the process of finishing up that work, he put his life on the line and nearly died doing it.

- The repetition of λειτουργίας helps define verses 25-30 as a section.
- The last clause in the Greek hints at a bigger problem than most English translations suggest. (Note the KJV.)