

Philippians 2:19-24

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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. For there is no one here like him who will readily demonstrate his deep concern for you. Others are busy with their own concerns, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know his qualifications, that like a son working with his father, he served with me in advancing the gospel. So I hope to send him as soon as I know more about my situation, though I am confident in the Lord that I too will be coming to see you soon.

Timothy

- Is with Paul (1:1 *From Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, ...*)
- One of the most frequent characters in the Pauline accounts
- From Lystra in Asia Minor, the uncircumcised son of a Jewish mother and Greek father
- Well thought of by Paul and chosen by Paul as missionary companion
- Circumcised by Paul when his uncircumcised status was causing trouble (Acts 16:1-3)
- Appears with Paul in the prescript of several other letters (2 Cor 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1; Phlm 1)
- May have been someone Paul could rely on in difficult situations (1 Cor 4:17 *For this reason, I have sent Timothy to you, who is my dear and faithful son in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.*)
- Paternal imagery in 1 Cor and in 2:22 indicates Timothy is one who carries out Paul's wishes and is accountable to him
- May have been the first bishop of Ephesus (Osiek)

2:19 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.

- *Now I hope in the Lord*—
 - he will do it for the Lord;
 - the Lord is the sphere of his hope
- *So that I too may be encouraged*—
 - "eupsycho"—"be glad," "have courage," "be encouraged"
 - rare Greek word found in papyri and on tombs in words of encouragement to the bereaved
- *By hearing news about you*—
 - it will be an encouragement for Paul to know what the situation in Philippi really is (1:28-30 ... *and by not being intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of their destruction, but of your salvation—a sign which is from God. For it has been granted to you not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for him, since you are encountering the same conflict that you saw me face and now hear that I am facing.*)
- Paul addresses concerns in chapters 3 and 4
- Expresses Paul's real concern for church

2:20 For there is no one here like him who will readily demonstrate his deep concern for you.

- *For there is no one here like him*—
 - *For I have no one like-minded*—
 - Paul appeals to the Philippians to be like-minded and concerned for one another in 2:2-4 (*...complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in the spirit and having one purpose.*)
 - "like-minded" is a rare Greek adjective (*hapax legomenon*)
 - literally means "same-souled";
 - related to *homothymadon* or one-mindedness in 2:2-4
 - he reminds the Philippians that Timothy embodies these qualities
 - "For" suggests the reason why Paul is sending Timothy: Paul most trusts him with the congregation
- *Who will readily demonstrate his deep concern for you—who genuinely will care for the things concerning you*—
 - "genuinely" has its root in the term meaning "legitimate birth"
 - foreshadows father/child metaphor in v. 22.
 - also alludes to Timothy's legitimate authority.
 - Paul and Timothy are so "same-souled" that Paul's concern for the Philippians is also Timothy's

2:21 Others are busy with their own concerns, not those of Jesus Christ.

- Literally reads "for all seek after their own thing"
- The article with the adjective (*hoi pantes*) excludes exceptions—*everybody* is self-concerned
- No one has the particular qualities Timothy has
- [*the concerns*] of Jesus Christ
 - This is what is important throughout the letter
 - Includes Jesus' example of how to live as individuals and as community and is the mission of the Gospel (2.6-11 The Christ Hymn)

**22. But Timothy's worth you know,
how like a son with a father he has
served with me in the work of the
gospel**

**23. I hope therefore to send him as
soon as I see how things go with
me;**

**24. and I trust in the Lord that I will also
come soon**

22. But Timothy's worth

- *as to test and approve / precious metals*
- *"proven worth/ character" similar to 1.10 "to help you determine (approve) what is best..." NRSV*

you know, how like a son with a father

- *Philippians know Timothy (vs.20 and 22)*
- *to know by experience*
- *parent child relationship with Paul and Timothy (1 Cor. 4:14, Philemon 10, Gal. 4:19, 1 Thes. 2:11)*
- *child's responsibility to care for the parent*
- *"dear son"/ "beloved child close relationship (1 Cor. 4:17)*

**he has served with me in the work of the
gospel**

- *Paul begins as to say 'served as a slave' but stops and says that both share (no hierarchy) in service to the gospel as in 1:5 "because of your sharing in the gospel..." NRSV, 2:25 and 4:3*
- *both are slaves of Christ and honored as in 1:1 "Paul and Timothy slaves of Christ Jesus..." NRSV*
- *work of gospel- founding of Philippian church and other visits*

**23. I hope therefore to send him as soon
as I see how things go with me;**

- *present imprisonment*
- *Timothy will stay with Paul for his trial or for pastoral support*
- *Timothy to give the latest word of Paul's situation*
- *Sending of Timothy for their sake and his*

**24. and I trust in the Lord that I will also
come soon**

- *'apostolic parousia' seen also in 1.8 "...how I long for all of you..." (1:27, 2:12)*
- *hope or confidence in the Lord (not seen in vs. 23)*
- *Paul will come to Philippi soon after Timothy*
- *Paul careful in expressing hope does not know what the future will hold*
- *"in the Lord"- God will provide*
- *"if pastoral needs are a factor, he looks forward to being spared (1:24, 25) to revisit Philippi" (Martin 119)*