

Paul Commends Timothy

19 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. **20** I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. **21** All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. **22** But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. **23** I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. **24** And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

Paul Commends Epaphroditus

25 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. **26** I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. **27** 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.

28 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. **29** Welcome him in the Lord's love^[a] and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. **30** 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.

Footnotes

a. 2:29 Greek *in the Lord*.

Questions:

1. Why did Paul hope to send Timothy to the Philippians?
2. Describe how Timothy cares about the Philippians.

Do you have a friend that genuinely cares about you?
3. Describe what kind of risk did Epaphroditus take for Christ?
4. You may not risk your life like Epaphroditus but what kind of risk can you take for the work of Christ?
5. Like Timothy describe a way you can serve and care for others over your own needs today or this week.