

# PHILIPPIANS



# PHILIPPIANS 2:25–30

<sup>25</sup> I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, <sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup> So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, <sup>30</sup> for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.



# 1. EPAPHRODITUS HAD ACCEPTED GOD'S CALL TO SERVE (2:25)

<sup>25</sup> I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need...

# 1. EPAPHRODITUS HAD ACCEPTED GOD'S CALL TO SERVE (2:25)

**Philippians 4:18**

I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent...

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

<sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.

# 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom



# 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

## Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 1) *Epaphroditus is distressed because his home church is worried about his health.* So Paul sends him home to Philippi so that everyone involved can be relieved.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 1) *Epaphroditus is distressed because his home church is worried about his health.* So Paul sends him home to Philippi so that everyone involved can be relieved.
- 2) *The church might be expecting and preferring Paul, or at least Timothy.* So Paul explains when he hopes to come himself, why Timothy's coming soon, and why Epaphroditus is the one coming now, carrying the letter.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 3) *The church might wonder whether Epaphroditus should have stayed with Paul.* So Paul gives a full explanation and takes full responsibility for Epaphroditus's return.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 3) *The church might wonder whether Epaphroditus should have stayed with Paul.* So Paul gives a full explanation and takes full responsibility for Epaphroditus's return.
- 4) *The church might question how sick Epaphroditus really got.* So Paul makes clear that Epaphroditus was at death's door, and had risked his life to serve Paul.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26–28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 5) *The church might be subtly disappointed in Epaphroditus as he returns.* So Paul speaks highly of Epaphroditus—how he served, and how he sacrificed.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26–28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 5) *The church might be subtly disappointed in Epaphroditus as he returns.* So Paul speaks highly of Epaphroditus—how he served, and how he sacrificed.
- 6) *The reunion might be tainted with tension and disunity.* So Paul urges the church to welcome and honor Epaphroditus when he arrives.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 7) *Epaphroditus might be tempted to be ashamed when he arrives home. So Paul urges the church to celebrate his arrival with joy and treat him as an honored soldier.*

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26-28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 7) *Epaphroditus might be tempted to be ashamed when he arrives home.* So Paul urges the church to celebrate his arrival with joy and treat him as an honored soldier.
- 8) *The church might be tempted to view Epaphroditus's sickness as a mere incident.* So Paul makes clear that Epaphroditus had selflessly risked his own well-being to serve.

## 2. EPAPHRODITUS FELT DEEPLY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN FAMILY (2:26–28)

### Paul's Emotional Insight and Relational Wisdom

- 9) *The church might feel like Epaphroditus failed Paul as their representative.* So Paul makes clear that Epaphroditus fulfilled their mission as a church—it was a success!

# 3. EPAPHRODITUS RISKED HIS LIFE TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE (2:29-30)

**Colossians 3:23-24**

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...  
You are serving the Lord Christ.

# 3. EPAPHRODITUS RISKED HIS LIFE TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE (2:29-30)

## Philippians 4:10

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

# 3. EPAPHRODITUS RISKED HIS LIFE TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE (2:29-30)

*The gift to Paul was a gift from the church as a body. It was a sacrificial offering of love. What was lacking was the church's presentation of this offering in person.*

— Martin Vincent

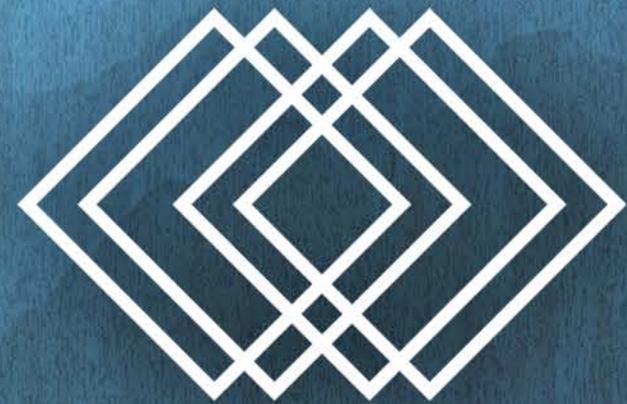
# 3. EPAPHRODITUS RISKED HIS LIFE TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE (2:29-30)

## 2 John 12

Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

## Luke 6:40

“Everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”



# PHILIPPIANS

