




Paul, Timothy, & Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:19-30

Brandon Lauranzon, May 4 & 5, 2019

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Are you someone who learns more from teaching and doctrine, or by watching and examples?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

PAUL, TIM, & EPAPH: NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

- 3 Why did Paul need Epaphroditus? Do you have a "Timothy"? Is there anyone with whom you have forged a deep friendship over many years?

- 4 Discuss the following quote by New York Times columnist, David Brooks:
I can make myself happy. This is the lie of self-sufficiency. This is the lie that happiness is an individual accomplishment. If I can have just one more victory, lose 15 pounds or get better at meditation, then I will be happy.

But people looking back on their lives from their deathbeds tell us that happiness is found amid thick and loving relationships. It is found by defeating self-sufficiency for a state of mutual dependence. It is found in the giving and receiving of care.

PAUL, TIM, & EPAPH: IT IS OK NOT TO BE OK

- 5 How did Paul and Epaphroditus illustrate that it's ok not to be ok?
- 6 Brandon said, "The Christian life is not one continuous triumphal march from victory to victory until we get to heaven. If you are a disciple of Jesus then there will be times when you have sorrow, there will be times when you are anxious, there will be times when you feel afraid. It is ok not to be ok." Have you ever been taught or believed differently?

PAUL, TIM, & EPAPH: JESUS FIRST, OTHERS SECOND, I AM THIRD

- 7 How does "Jesus first, others second, I am third" compare to the message of our culture?
- 8 What do you think it would practically look like to embrace an "I am third" lifestyle?
- 9 How is Jesus the ultimate Epaphroditus?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?