

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**The Man and His Church
Philippians 2:19-30
March 9, 2017**

“These two coworkers provide tangible evidence that the ethical principles implied in the gospel do not ask more than God gives power to obey.” – Frank Thielman
“They are the type of men we are to be in the Church.” – Alistair Begg

What Type of Man Should Make Up Christ’s Church?

- 1. A man ready to be assigned any mission in the Lord.**
¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.
cf. Acts 16:6-10
- 2. A man united in spirit with his fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord.**
²⁰ For I have no one like him, ... cf. Philippians 2:1-2
- 3. A man who puts the interests of others and of Christ above his own.**
...who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. cf. Philippians 2:3-5
- 4. A man who is faithful in the face of hardships.**
²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. cf. Romans 5:3-5
- 5. A man of action.**
²⁵ 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, cf. Philippians 1:18-24
 - a. He is a brother.
 - b. He is a fellow worker.
 - c. He is a fellow soldier.
 - d. He is a messenger.
 - e. He is a minister.
- 6. A man with deep compassion for the people in his church.**
²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.
cf. Philippians 1:8
- 7. A man completely dedicated to the mission of the church.**
²⁷ 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. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. cf. Philippians 3:12-14
- 8. A man worthy of honor.**
²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died^[c] for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.
cf. Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:9-10

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

AMEN Discussion Questions

1. In what specific ways do the examples of Timothy and Epaphraditus illustrate the points that Paul is trying to make in 2:1-18?
2. In four places (v.19, 23, 25, 28) Paul mentions the “sending” of these two men. In what ways was their mission of being sent important to the churches of the 1st century?
3. What do we know of Timothy’s “proven worth” (v.22)? Why is the faithfulness of men such an important issue in the church today?
4. In verse 25, Paul calls Epaphraditus “my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my needs”. How is each of those roles important to a local church today?

Going Deeper

1. In what ways can you make yourself more available to the Lord, to your church leadership, and to the people of your church? What are some of the things that hinder you from being “ready to be sent on any mission in the Lord”?
2. What are some of the needs you see among the people of your church? How could you help in ministering to those needs?
3. Who in your church needs to be encouraged and how can you do that this week?