

# What was Paul's message to the Philippians?

- The letter so far ... from Paul & Timothy, **servants** of Christ Jesus
- Jesus humbled Himself, became a **servant** dying on a cross
- Paul was in prison in Rome for telling people about Jesus and the good news
- Both situation looked disastrous, failures by the world's standards
- BUT
- Jesus' death on a cross meant we can be forgiven and know God's love and friendship
- Paul said the imprisonment was actually a good thing because he could tell the guards about Jesus, other people had become braver and were sharing the good news about Jesus; and even those who tried to stir things up for him meant that Jesus name was being heard
- Paul wanted the Christians in Philippi to be brave, to continue to serve God and get to know God better

Then weirdly, Paul starts telling us about his and his friends' travel plans!!!



# Philippians 2 v 19- 30

- Who was the messenger from Philippi?
- Why did he go to Paul in Rome?
- Why was Paul sending him home?
- Who else was Paul sending to Philippi?
- Why was he sending him?

So why did Paul include all of that and what can we learn from the **servants**, Timothy and Epaphroditus?



# Timothy – Paul’s right hand man

- Letter is from Paul & Timothy
- ‘I’ve got no-one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare’
- Timothy has proved himself, like a son to a father, in the work of sharing the good news – a leader like Paul; willing to be trained and taught; given missions
- Paul trusts Timothy and sends in his place

Are you a  
Timothy?



# Epaphroditus

- ‘my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier’
- ‘your messenger who you sent to take care of my needs’
- He is distressed because you heard he was ill – nearly died – he longs for you
- God spared Paul sorrow by letting Epaphroditus recover
- Paul wants Epaphroditus to go home so they can be glad and less anxious for him
- Welcome him; honour him; he risked his life for the work of Christ
- He came when you couldn’t - pastoral visit; encourager; practical – went to meet Paul’s needs

Are you an  
Epaphroditus?



# But what about Paul?



Are you a Paul?

- He is like a father to Timothy – nurtured and trained him
- He really loves Epaphroditus - **brother, fellow worker and soldier, God spared me sorrow**
- Even though he is in prison, and would love them to stay with him, Paul is willing to do the best for his friends and to send them to help others. He is selfless. **Epaphroditus longs for you so I am sending him back to you.**
- He is also wise – he knows when someone needs to go back home; to change focus

Willing to serve God  
and others

Taking a genuine  
interest in others

Being trustworthy

Willing to go when  
others can't



A servant  
heart

Willing to share the  
people you love

Willing to give where  
there is need

Willing to risk your  
life

Are you really willing  
to do whatever God  
asks of you ?



# And Jesus? The Servant King



He gave up everything for us:

‘...He made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant ...he humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.’

Yet in the kingdom of God what looks like defeat is victory; what looks like failure is success

‘Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father ‘