



Midweek Study

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in pursuit of **HAPPINESS** Through Philippians



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True Friends You Can Count On Philippians 2:19-24

I have no one like-minded (v.20) – Literally, “one souled,” and often translated “kindred spirit.” Timothy was one in thought, feeling, and spirit with Paul in his love for the church. He was unique, as he was Paul’s protégé (see 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2). Paul had no other friend like Timothy because, sadly, “all” the others were devoted to their own purposes rather than Christ’s.

In the Lord (v. 24) – Paul knew his plans were subject to God’s sovereignty (see James 4:13-17).

You might think of Paul as a missionary, a preacher, a church starter or a writer of epistles. This verse reminds us that Paul was also an administrator.

Even as a prisoner in Rome, Paul was concerned about the condition of the church at Philippi. He felt responsible for it so he planned to send Timothy to give direction to the church. He had the heart of an administrator, wanting to give direction to the church he had founded.

At the end of the first missionary journey, in Acts 14:21, Luke wrote about Paul: ***“Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.”*** Why did Paul return to the churches? Luke explained: ***“strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.”*** And then, Luke added, Paul appointed elders for them ***in every church.***

TWO MAIN INGREDIENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION: **Organization and Delegation**

Why Paul Chose Timothy:

1) QUALIFIED

Already as a child, Timothy was an eager student of the Scripture, a teachable and obedient son ([2 Tim. 3:15](#)).

2 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

As he grew up, Timothy was highly recommended by those who knew him best ([Acts 16:2](#)).

Acts 16:2 (NKJV) He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

Upon his conversion to the Christian faith, Timothy became a special deputy and fellow worker of the Apostle Paul ([Rom. 16:21](#)).

Romans 16:21 (NKJV) Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

Timothy was set aside by God as a minister of the Gospel ([1 Thess. 3:2](#)).

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV) and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

Timothy was present when the Philippian church was founded ([Acts 16:11-40](#)), so he knew them very well.

In addition, he subsequently visited the church on more than one occasion ([Acts 19:21, 22](#); [20:3-6](#); [2 Cor. 1:1](#)).

Acts 19:21-22 (NKJV) ²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."
²² So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

Timothy was a natural for this job, so Paul selected him.

2) CONCERNED

who will sincerely care for your state.

GOOD LEADERS MUST KNOW AND CARE.

"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

Why Paul Didn't Choose Others:

1) They were concerned with themselves instead of with others.

2) They were concerned with the easy way instead of with Christ's way.

Timothy was no novice. He was still young, perhaps in his thirties, but he had already demonstrated his worth in the crucible of experience.

The Philippians did not have to wonder about Timothy. He had a track record anyone could investigate.

What a picture of Paul's undying optimism. As soon as a decision was made about Paul, Timothy would take word to the Philippians. But Paul said, he felt like he would be released. Even in the worst of situations, Paul always looked for the best. He was a true optimist.

The pessimist is one who feels bad when he feels good for fear he'll feel worse when he feels better.

The optimist is one who says, "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it."

How we need in our churches today more Christians like the apostle Paul who dare to see in every situation the possibilities of God.

APPLICATION:

1. We see the importance of organization in getting the work of God done.

"But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner" ([1 Cor. 14:40](#)).

2. We see the importance of using qualified leaders to do the work of God.

"...lay hands on no man suddenly..." ([1 Timothy 5:22](#))

3. We see the importance of concern for people.