

OF EQUAL HEART

Philippians 2:19-24

I. IDENTIFYING THE HEART (Php 2:19-21)

A. Paul lived a life of Hope (ἐλπίζω, El-Pea-Zo), so much so, that it allowed him to be in constant joy despite his circumstances. But one's hope can only be as strong as the object of that hope. What was Paul's hope in?

B. What Paul looked forward to most was not being released from Prison, but of receiving news of the Philippian's obedience to God. What specific response was he expecting (hint: Php 2:1-4)? Could Paul have written the same to you? Which one in that list could you improve in?

C. Paul also wrote that he had none like Timothy who would be genuinely "concerned" for their needs. The Greek word for concerned is μεριμνάω (merry-min-now-o) and it has the idea of "monopolizing the heart". In a negative way it refers to anxiety, but here it has the force of putting the needs of the Philippians first. Can you think of a time when someone else was truly "concerned" for you? Do you find it difficult to be "concerned" for others?

II. DUPLICATING THE HEART (Php 2:22)

A. Paul says that they knew (γινώσκω; guh-nos-ko) Timothy's "proven worth" (δοκιμή; dock-e-may). How did they intimately know? (Hint: was Timothy ever there, Acts 16, 17?) Proven worth has the idea of testing by trials. No trial seems pleasant at the time, but can you look back and think of any trials that God has used to make you stronger and better in Him?

B. There are several ways Ione can duplicate the heart: Through Adversity; By Discipleship; By Pouring Into Another; By Stepping Out in Faith; By Getting Uncomfortable for Christ. Who do you have in your life that you strive to imitate? What are you currently pouring your heart into?

III. SHARING THE HEART (Php 2:23-24)

A. Paul wasn't going to delay in sending Timothy to meet their needs and bring him news. By sending Timothy it meant that Paul would be all alone, without comfort or anyone to care for his needs. Yet, he couldn't wait to send him. He also honors Timothy by putting him on an equal level. What kind of man was Paul? If Timothy was of "equal heart", what kind of person was Timothy?

What type of person in Christ do you strive to be?